



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

July 18, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

As schools prepare to welcome back students and teachers, we are also preparing to enter the peak of hurricane season. Last week, we released our [Hurricane Preparedness Playbook](#). This resource represents guidance of experts from the private sector, academia, and government.

The playbook was developed by the LDOE's Protect Louisiana Schools Hurricane Preparedness Commission (PLSHPC) and made possible through a partnership with AT&T. I launched the commission after discovering that the LDOE lacked the type of resources and guidance to protect Louisiana schools. It's the first statewide commission centered on creating operational best practices for school systems and leaders during natural disasters.

These are not mandates and this playbook is not meant to replace the comprehensive crisis plans you've developed alongside your local emergency management professionals. It's a collection of recommendations from individuals who have been in the "trenches" when it comes to leading through a hurricane. In my conversations with system leaders in the aftermath of Laura, Delta, and Ida, many of the questions and challenges were similar. This new resource synthesizes the voices and experiences of veteran professionals so that it can benefit school system leaders of today and tomorrow.

Dr. Cade Brumley

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [July 19 at 2 p.m.](#)
- School System Financial Support (SSFS) Monthly Call: [July 19 at 2 p.m.](#)
- [Office of Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: July 20 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [July 20 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [July 25 at 3:45 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [August 1 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Registered Apprenticeship Funding Webinar: [August 2 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call: [August 10 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [August 10 at 10 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- New Teacher Experience [Summer Kick-Off registration](#) closes: July 18
- Accountability Contact Data Certification Webinar: [July 26 at 2 p.m.](#)
- ESEA LA Fiscal Flexibility Waiver Request deadline to [comment](#): July 28
- New Teacher Experience [Affinity Group registration](#) closes: August 12
- New Teacher Experience [Professional Learning modules registration](#) closes: August 12

Operations

Elementary and Secondary Education Act Fiscal Flexibility Waiver Request

Please share with federal program directors, business managers, superintendents, and financial officials.

The LDOE is requesting that the U.S. Department of Education approve its tydings waiver to access additional flexibilities for certain funds received under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). The LDOE is requesting the waiver, pursuant section 8401 of the ESEA of 1965. The ESEA LA Fiscal Flexibility Waiver Request is available to view.

Federal program directors, business managers, financial officials, and relevant personnel of public school systems should review [this waiver](#) request and submit all questions or comments by **July 28**. Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions and comment submissions.

Assessment, Accountability and Analytics

Updating Contacts for 2023-2024

Please share with school system leaders, testing coordinators, and accountability contacts.

It is extremely important that changes to the district test coordinator and/or the accountability contact for each school system be reported to the AAA office. Please find the [DTC and Accountability Contact Update Form](#) that must be signed by the superintendent and returned to assessment@la.gov. New personnel who are not reported to us will not have access to testing platforms and/or the LA Data Review data certification portal. Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

ACT MOUs for 2023-2024

Please share with testing coordinators and school system leaders.

All schools and systems that plan to test students on ACT and/or WorkKeys that are not covered under state contract must sign an ACT MOU for the new school year. The new MOUs will be posted no later than July 28 on the [DTC Resources website](#). Additional information will be shared during Assessment and Accountability Office Hours. Students who are not tested under state contract are:

- Students in grade 12 who retest to improve an ACT score from a prior administration
- Students in grade 11 on the Jump Start diploma pathway who have a prior WorkKeys score
- Students in any grade other than 11 participating in WorkKeys testing
- Students in grades 9 and 10 not eligible to be tested during the state administration window

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions

Career and College Readiness

Perkins CTE Summer Leadership Retreat

Please share with CTE supervisors and Perkins representatives.

[Registration](#) is required and open for the virtual Perkins CTE Summer Leadership Retreat. Participants will strengthen connections, share expectations, and rethink how we support Perkins CTE programs and students at every level. Session topics include joint planning, implementation of Perkins CTE programs of study, meeting the needs of special populations, and preparing CTE teachers and faculty.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** July 26, 8:45 a.m. - noon
- **Webinar Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83130829466>

Please contact careerandtech@lctcs.edu with questions.

School System Financial Services

FY 2022-2023 Agricultural Science Allocation Payment 2

Please share with business managers and finance officials.

The FY 2022-2023 Agricultural Science allocation payments have been revised to provide additional funding and will be released on or before **July 28**. The revised allocation and payment amounts will be posted in the [Business Manager Support Library](#).

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Social Studies Curriculum Development

Please share with social studies supervisors, administrators, and K-8 social studies teachers.

The first unit in grade 5 of Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum is now available on the [Bayou Bridges web page](#). Materials for grades 4-5 will continue to post throughout the summer and fall for piloting in 2023-2024; additional units for grades K-8 will be released throughout the 2023-2024 school year. See the [Bayou Bridges Detailed Unit Release Schedule](#) for future release dates. Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Instructional Support: Instructional Materials Reviews

Please share with content supervisors, administrators, and literacy coaches.

The Department conducts ongoing reviews of instructional materials to support school systems in adopting curricula in all core subjects. Newly rated Tier 1 materials are listed below. All tiered reviews can be found on the [Annotated Reviews](#) webpage. The status of all instructional materials submissions can be found in the [Weekly Report](#).

- Scholastic Inc. - PreK On My Way, ECE Ages 4-5 (©2021)
- Edmentum Inc.- Louisiana Algebra I (©2021)
- McGraw Hill LLC - Reveal Math, Courses 1-3, Grades 6-8 (©2020)
- Zearn - Zearn Math, Grades 6-8 (©2023)

The Department is reviewing currently posted Tier 1 and 2 ELA curricula which include foundational skills for [Act 517](#) compliance. Upon completion, a cover page is added to the posted review noting the impact of the review for compliance. The materials listed below have been reviewed for compliance and posted to the [Tiered Reviews](#) webpage.

- Tier 1: Amplify Education - Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) 2nd Edition (©2017)
- Tier 1: Open Up Resources - EL Education, ELA Grades K-5 (©2017)
- Tier 1: Imagine Learning - EL Education, ELA Grades K-5 (©2017)
- Tier 1: McGraw Hill LLC - Wonders, ELA Grades 3-5 (©2020)
- Tier 1: Open Up Resources - Bookworms Reading and Writing
- Tier 3: Pearson/Savvas - myView Literacy, Grades K-2 (©2020)
- Tier 3: Success for All Foundation - KinderCorner 2nd Edition Plus, Grade K (©2016)

The [Act 517 Compliance Reviews Status Report](#) lists the status of all Act 517 compliance reviews, including reviews that have been completed, are under review, and are ready for review. For any materials not reviewed for compliance under Act 517, the Department recommends that school systems engage in a [local review process](#) using the [Act 517 Three-Cueing System Ban Guidance](#) located on the [Literacy Instruction, Intervention, and Extension](#) webpage. Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

Raising Expectations, Access, and Outcomes for Students with Disabilities

Please share with school system leaders, special education directors, special educators, and related service providers.

The PROGRESS Center at the American Institutes for Research is hosting a free, three-day virtual event focusing on information, tools, and resources needed to ensure high expectations, access, and positive outcomes for students with disabilities. This [virtual event](#) will be held August 2 through August 4. Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov for more information.

Educator Development

New Teacher Experience: Affinity Group Registration Now Open

Please share with school leaders and early career teachers.

The [New Teacher Experience](#) is a comprehensive support program for beginning educators designed to increase teacher effectiveness, enhance skills, and reduce attrition among beginning teachers. The Department is excited to announce [registration](#) is now open for 2023-2024 Affinity Groups.

Affinity Groups provide support for beginning teachers across Louisiana through monthly virtual meetings. There is no cost to join, but seats are limited. [Registration](#) will close **August 12** or until capacity is reached. Please contact laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions.