



# LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

July 25, 2023

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## Important Dates for School Systems

### Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Diverse Learners July Office Hours: **Canceled**
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [August 1 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [August 1 at 3:45 p.m.](#)
- Registered Apprenticeship Funding Webinar: [August 2 at 2 p.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [August 4 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Monthly Principal Webinars – Math and Literacy: [August 7 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call: [August 10 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [August 10 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Diverse Learner Office Hours: [August 22 at 2 p.m.](#)

### Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Accountability Contact Data Certification Webinar: [July 26 at 2 p.m.](#)
- ESEA LA Fiscal Flexibility Waiver Request deadline to [comment](#): July 28
- Deadline to complete [2023 Summer Learning Program Survey](#): August 1
- Academic Recovery and Acceleration Plan (ARAP) launch session: [August 1 at 2 p.m.](#)
- ARAP launch session: [August 2 at 9 a.m.](#)
- ARAP launch session: [August 2 at noon](#)
- ARAP launch session: [August 3 at 9 a.m.](#)
- New Teacher Experience [Affinity Group registration](#) closes: August 12
- New Teacher Experience [Professional Learning modules registration](#) closes: August 12
- [School Support Institutes](#) Session 1: September 11 - 14
- Deadline to submit [2023-2024 PPP](#): October 31

## Operations

### **2023-2024 System Leaders Monthly Call**

**Please share with school system leaders.**

The System Leaders Monthly Call will resume for the 2023-24 school year August 4 at 9 a.m. These calls will take place on the first Friday of each month through May for school system leaders and members of their leadership teams. Access information is available in the Important Dates for School Systems section of the LDOE Weekly Newsletter. Archived presentations from these calls [can be found online](#).

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

## Assessment, Accountability, and Analytics

### **Growth-to-Mastery Targets**

**Please share with test coordinators and school system leaders.**

The grades 3-8 growth-to-mastery target rosters will be posted in DRC INSIGHT August 1 in DRC INSIGHT. The rosters will include new targets based on 2023 LEAP scores for ELA and math and will include the students who tested with their assigned sites in the spring.

After the October 1 collection closes, the LDOE will release high school growth-to-mastery rosters and grades 3-8 rosters updated with student reassignments.

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

### **K-3 Literacy Screener Administration Resources**

**Please share with district test coordinators.**

The following documents have been posted to the new [K-3 Louisiana Literacy Screener](#) web page to provide resources and directions for administering the DIBELS 8th literacy screener in the first 30 days of school. Screening is mandatory for all students, including all students with IEPs, IAPs and/or EL checklists.

- **K-3 Literacy Calculator:** provided to assist test administrators with the calculation of the composite score that will be reported to EdLink by October 15.
- **K-3 Literacy Screener Remote Administration PowerPoints:** created for use with remote administrations per guidelines that are outlined in the test coordinators manual.
- **K-3 Literacy Alternate Assessment Rubrics:** developed by grade level for students with significant cognitive disabilities who qualify for alternate assessments.
- **EL Checklist:** updated to include the K-3 Literacy Screener as a testing option.
- **Training videos:** provided for required test administration training.

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

## School System Financial Services

### **Differentiated Compensation: Line Item Appropriation**

**Please share with business managers.**

In FY 2023-2024, the Legislature appropriated funding for Differentiated Compensation to assist city and parish school districts, charter schools, lab, schools, and state schools with addressing unique market needs in the recruitment and retention of teachers. For more details, refer to the Differentiated Compensation and Guidance document available in the [Business Manager Support Library State Allocations](#).

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

### **MFP: Career Development Fund (CDF) Initial Allocation and Payments**

**Please share with business managers.**

MFP CDF initial payments for FY 2023-2024 will be released by the LDOE soon. For more details, refer to the CDF Guidance and Allocation document available in the [MFP Library](#).

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

### **MFP Weighted Funds Accountability**

**Please share with business managers.**

The FY 2023-2024 MFP Weighted Funding Reporting Guidance and Calculation are located in the [MFP Library](#) under the 2023-2024 MFP Budget Letter section.

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

## School System Relations

### **LDOE Names State-Level Honorees for Award Programs**

**Please share with teachers, school and school system leaders.**

Last week, the LDOE, in partnership with [Dream Teachers](#), celebrated excellence in education at the 17th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Awards Gala, which was held at the World War II Museum in New Orleans. During the event, the LDOE announced the [2024 State Elementary, Middle, and High School Teacher and Principal of the Year honorees](#), the [2024 New Teacher of the Year](#), the [2024 Early Childhood Leader of the Year and the 2024 Early Childhood Teacher of the Year](#).

In addition, the [New Teacher of the Year Finalists](#), [Early Childhood Teacher and Leader Finalists](#), [Milken Educator Award](#) recipients, [Louisiana's Public Interest Fellowship recipients](#) and the [Teacher and Principal of the Year Semifinalists and Finalists](#) were honored.

Congratulations to these outstanding educators.

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

## Teaching and Learning

### **Monthly Principal Webinars: Math and Literacy**

**Please share with all K-8 school leaders and school system leaders.**

Over the course of the 2023-2024 school year, the LDOE will host a series of six webinars for K-8 principals focusing on key literacy and math initiatives. These webinars will be brief, 30 minutes each, as the LDOE appreciates and values each principal's time. Webinars will take place August 7, September 5, October 9, January 8, February 5, and March 4. They are not mandatory for anyone but simply a service and resource the LDOE is providing due to the emphasis on literacy and math, including key shifts resulting from legislation. Details for the first webinar are included below, and all dates have been placed on the [School System Support Calendar](#).

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 7 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95898838520?pwd=dE1kVjJxRjFsc2ZDWDNEcVRZNDZvQT09>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 958 9883 8520

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

## Academic Content

### **Social Studies Curriculum Development**

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

The first two units in grade 4 and 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](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov) with questions.

## Diverse Learners

### **Annual GODA Conference**

**Please share with special education directors, leaders, and educators.**

The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs (GODA) is hosting its annual, virtual, free conference July 24 through 2. [Registrants](#) will receive a detailed [schedule](#) of the conference, including session descriptions and presenter bios.

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

### **Special Education Aspiring Leader Cohort 2**

**Please share with school system leaders, principals, special education directors and coordinators.**

The Special Education Aspiring Leader Academy was created to address the needs of rising special education leaders. The program provides valuable mentoring, collaboration, and opportunities to learn about the roles and responsibilities of special education leaders. The retention of leaders in key high-leverage positions is essential in moving the needle on student outcomes. Special Education Aspiring Leader Academy cohort 2 members will attend five sessions specially designed to prepare for a

role in leadership. Of the five sessions, two sessions will be in person at the Claiborne building and three will occur virtually.

Aspiring leaders in special education are encouraged to become members of cohort 2 of the Special Education Aspiring Leader Academy. We encourage full-time administrators, special education coordinators, lead special education teachers, and aspiring special education leaders in these areas to [apply](#) by September 15. The new cohort will begin in October.

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

## Educator Development

### **CIS Evaluation Closeout for Teachers, Counselors, and Librarians**

**Please share with school system leaders, school leaders, human resource directors, and data managers.**

Systems should continue to enter teacher, counselor, and librarian evaluation data at this time. Once the Compass Information System (CIS) rolls to the 2023-2024 school year in the fall, no teacher, counselor, or librarian evaluation data for the 2022-2023 school year can be added or amended. The deadline for data entry will follow VAM release in the fall. Please continue to monitor completion of the following tasks:

- Enter and rate both SLTs for teachers and staff.
- Enter observation scores (for 2022-2023 only; if the evaluated person scored “Effective: Proficient” or “Highly Effective” (2.5 and above), enter the single score twice.
- Finalize evaluations for non-VAM teachers.
- Meet with teachers to review scores.
- Finalize evaluations for VAM teachers following VAM release in the fall.

Note: Systems utilizing the spreadsheet to upload data to CIS should also finalize teacher, counselor, and librarian observations and SLTs in local system databases/trackers. Non-VAM evaluations may be uploaded now via the spreadsheet; however, VAM evaluation data should be uploaded following the release of VAM in the fall in order to populate final scores. Resources for [finalizing and uploading](#) evaluations are located in the [Compass Library](#).

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

### **2023-2024 Evaluation Updates**

**Please share with systems leaders, school leaders, human resource directors, and data managers.**

The [2023-2024 CIS Timeline](#) is available in the [Compass Library](#). Please note, per [Bulletin 130](#), two observations/site visits are required for all teachers and leaders for the 2023-2024 school year. The following rubrics are available in the [Compass Library](#) to assist with conducting observations:

- [Compass Teacher Rubric](#)
- [Compass Leader Rubric](#)
- [Compass Counselor Rubric](#)
- [Observation Rubric of School Librarians](#)

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

## **2023-2024 Educator Evaluation Pilot**

**Please share with school system leaders and school leaders.**

Following an RFP process, the LDOE has contracted with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) to assist with reimagining the Louisiana evaluation system based on research and best practice, along with developing resources to support professional learning. This transition to an improved system will span over the course of three fiscal years.

The LDOE is seeking up to 15 school systems from across the state to pilot potential evaluation components. Participating systems should have evaluators currently trained and certified to use the NIET Teaching and Learning Standards Rubric (TLSR) and the Principal Standards Rubric (PSR). Applicants who are not currently trained and certified in the PSR will be trained during the pilot year. All participating systems will be trained to use any additional evaluation components/processes to be piloted.

Additional information and requirements can be found on the [Educator Evaluation System Pilot Overview](#). Interested systems should complete the [Application and Assurances Form](#) by **August 4**. The LDOE will notify selected participants by August 11. A kickoff meeting with system contacts will take place **August 24 from 2 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.** via Zoom.

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

## Literacy

### **Literacy Screener Web Page**

**Please share with school system level leaders and school leaders.**

The [Literacy Screener web page](#) is now live. This page includes a recording of the literacy screener webinar, DIBELS 8th edition paper/pencil training videos, training redelivery guidance, screening diverse learners information, family resources, and administration guidance. Additional resources will be added soon.

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

## School Improvement

### **School Improvement Best Practices Support 2023-2024**

**Please share with school system leaders.**

School Improvement Support Specialists (SISS) from the Division of School Improvement are currently reaching out to superintendents to schedule beginning-of-the-year conversations. These conversations allow LEA leaders to share how their implementation of best practices improved leadership and instructional practices. SISS will follow up with targeted support to enhance teaching and learning at their CIR and UIR-A schools. During the 2022-2023 school year, 65% of school systems across the state chose to participate in this support. This differentiated and targeted support aligns to the state's commitment to prioritizing meaningful collaboration that results in continuous improvement.

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