



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

July 26, 2022

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
K-2 Learning Year: Phase I Office Hours	July 27 at 12 p.m.
Data Coordinator Office Hours	July 28 at 1 p.m.
P-EBT Data Managers Office Hours	August 2 at 10 a.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	August 2 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	August 2 at 3:45 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	July 28 at 3 p.m.
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	August 2 at 1 p.m.
Alternative Education Leaders Monthly Call	August 3 at 10 a.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	August 5 at 9 a.m.
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	August 10 at 11 a.m.
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	August 11 at 9 a.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	August 11 at 9 a.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	August 11 at 1 p.m.
School-Based Medicaid Provider Monthly Call	August 16 at 2:30 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	August 16 at 3:45 p.m.
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	August 17 at 9:30 a.m.
Nonpublic Monthly Call	August 17 at 2 p.m.
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Cal	August 18 at 10 a.m.
Upcoming Events	
Guidance for Leading Inclusive Special Education Programs	August 2 at 1 p.m.
Louisiana School Safety Summit	August 4, 2022
Important Deadlines	
Summer Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Applications Due	July 29

Operations

Ready to Achieve! 2022-2023 Operational Guidelines

Please share with school system leaders.

The Louisiana Department of Health has provided updated guidance for a safe return to in-person instruction for the 2022-2023 school year. The [Ready to Achieve! 2022-2023 Operational Guidelines](#) provide recommendations for COVID mitigation measures based upon CDC COVID community-levels. Please share this information with system leaders and administration.

Please contact meredith.mcgovern@la.gov with questions.

Ready to Achieve! 2022-2023 School System Operations Plan Submission

Please share with school system leaders.

A school system that receives ARP ESSER funds must make publicly available on its website a **Ready to Achieve! plan** for safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. School systems can meet this requirement for 2022-2023 by updating their Ready to Achieve 2021 plans to reflect the [Ready to Achieve 2022-2023 guidance](#).

School systems will [submit a link](#) to their plan to LDOE no later than September 12.

Please contact meredith.mcgovern@la.gov with questions.

2022 Legislative Acts of Interest to System Leaders

Please share with school system leaders.

A [list of legislative Acts of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session](#) has been curated for system leaders. While this list is not inclusive of every instrument approved during the session, it will serve as a helpful starting point for LEAs seeking to prepare a response to these measures. The LDOE response to the 2022 session will be presented for BESE consideration at the August 2022 meeting of the Board.

Please contact ethan.melancon@la.gov with questions.

Nutrition Support

Summer Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Applications

Please share with school system leaders, school leaders and families.

On Thursday, July 21, 2022, the State received federal approval of Louisiana's Summer Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) program. The Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is asking for parents who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches to apply for those benefits with their schools or school systems by close of business **Friday, July 29**.

Students who are already receiving or have been approved for free or reduced-priced lunches do not need to reapply to receive P-EBT benefits. This includes any student in a school that provides free meals to all students under a special rule called Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). The Summer P-EBT program only applies to students who receive free or reduced-price lunch under the National School Lunch Program or attend a CEP school. Please ensure that eligible families are aware that they must take the following steps by July 29 in preparation for Summer P-EBT.

Parents should

1. Contact the school their child attended in May 2022 for the application; and
2. Submit completed applications to the school by close of business Friday, July 29.

Please visit <http://pebt-la.org/> for more information.

Assessments, Accountability and Analytics

LEAP 2025

Please share this information with school and district test coordinators.

To access LEAP 2025 grade 3-8 score reports that will be released the week of June 25, users should go to [DRC INSIGHT](#), My Applications/Report Delivery/Pre-generated (Summative). In the upper right-hand corner, select site and select LEAP 2025 Grade 3-8 Spring 2022. Select report type. This is a secure function in INSIGHT that is only accessible by authorized users.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Test Security Plans

Please share this information with school leaders and school and district test coordinators.

All local education agencies that are new to state testing must submit a test security plan no later than to assessment@la.gov August 31, 2022.

ELPS

Please share this information with school leaders and test coordinators.

- English language proficiency screener will not be accessible in the TIDE portal until August 1. Please plan to administer the screener within the first 30 days of applicable student enrollment.
- New district test coordinators should notify assessment@la.gov for access to the TIDE portal.

Data Certification

Please share this information with district accountability contacts.

Data certification is the final opportunity for school systems to review data prior to the calculation of school performance scores. There will be a data certification webinar for the upcoming release of DCAI, ACT and assessment rosters at 2 p.m. on August 3. This webinar is designed for district-level accountability contacts, who are responsible for redelivering the webinar to school-level staff.

Data Certification for Assessments Webinar

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Aug 3 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93933554945>
- **Meeting ID:** 939 3355 4945
- **Webinar Phone Number (One Tap Mobile):** +14702509358,,93933554945#

Career and College Readiness

Career Development Fund End-of-Year Reporting

Share with CTE supervisors, principals, school counselors, secondary supervisors, and testing coordinators.

The [2021-2022 Career Development Fund \(CDF\) End-of-Year Expenditure Report](#) is available for school systems to complete. The deadline to report on 2021-2022 CDF expenditures is August 31. Schools systems should refer to the [2021-2022 Guidelines for Use of CDF Allocation](#) when completing the form.

CDF funds support increased student access to high-value Career and Technical Education courses and training. CDF funds are 6% of the MFP state and local base cost per pupil (\$241) provided for each qualifying student course enrollment in grades 9 through 12.

Please contact troy.borne@la.gov with questions.

Alternative Education Leaders Community of Practice

Please share with alternative education supervisors and site leaders.

The Alternative Education Leaders Community of Practice focuses on supporting AE sites leaders with the delivery of criteria outlined in Bulletin 131. Additionally, leaders are provided necessary information and tools to help ensure intentional structures, effective instruction, and high-quality resources are site norms that help lead to improved student outcomes.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 3 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95978637476>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID:** 959 7863 7476
- **Passcode:** 775578

Please contact terran.perry@la.gov with questions.

School Medicaid Monthly Office Hours

Please share with school-based Medicaid coordinators, special education directors and school business managers.

The LDOE will host a Medicaid Monthly Update for school-based Medicaid program coordinators on the third Tuesday of each month beginning August 16. Each meeting will review recent updates from the Louisiana Department of Health and the components of Medicaid program requirements.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 16 at 2:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93019253034>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1-312-626-6799 or +1-470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID:** 930 1925 3034
- **Passcode:** 201756

Please contact elizabeth.duncan@la.gov with questions.

College Board Counselor Workshops

Please share with secondary supervisors, principals, school counselors, and testing coordinators.

Join the College Board for the [2022 Counselor Workshops](#) for updates on AP programs and higher education trends as you support students for the 2022-2023 school year. All workshops are free and all attendees are eligible for CEUs or credit toward professional certification.

Louisiana school counselors have been invited to attend on the following days:

- August 30 at 8 a.m.
- September 7 at 12 p.m.

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

ACT[®] College and Career Readiness Workshops

Please share with secondary supervisors, principals, school counselors, testing coordinators, and teachers.

The ACT[®] [2022 College and Career Readiness Workshops](#) are a chance for K-12 stakeholders to learn about and collaborate on the latest trends in college and career readiness. [Registration](#) is now open for in-person workshops that offer content specific to Louisiana on the days and locations listed below.

- September 27 at University of New Orleans in New Orleans; 9 a.m.
- September 29 at Louisiana Department of Education Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge; 9 a.m.
- October 4 at University of Louisiana in Lafayette; 9 a.m.

[Registration](#) is also open for national and product-specific webinars, such as ACT[®] Test Prep, PreACT[®], and ACT[®] WorkKeys. If you are unable to attend the webinar, you will receive a link to the recording after the live event by registering.

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Quality Science and Math (QSM) Grant Opportunity for Teachers

Please share with pre-K through high school math, science, and STEM teachers.

The [QSM Grant Program](#) awards grants of up to \$2,000 to Louisiana Pre K-12 public school teachers for purchasing non-consumable materials and equipment. The grant can be used with science, math, and STEM courses. After-school, Gifted and Talented, and Special Education programs are not eligible. The QSM [online application](#) portal is open from July 18 until September 11.

Please contact gsminfo@lsu.edu with questions.

Diverse Learners

Guidance for Leading Inclusive Special Education Programs

Please share with school system leaders and special education directors/supervisors.

School system leaders are encouraged to attend an hour-long webinar to support the implementation of the seventh issue of Guidance for Leading Inclusive Special Education Programs: Engaging Key Stakeholders to Support Success for All Students. The document will be released concurrently with the webinar on August 2.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 2 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91715390151>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID:** 917 1539 0151

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Teacher Leader Summit Materials Available

Please share with summit attendees.

The tenth annual Teacher Leader Summit brought together educators from across the state for an energy-filled, inspiring event that closed out one school year and inspired attendees in their planning for the next.

Check out all of the great materials from the 2022 Teacher Leader Summit that are now available in the new 2022 Teacher Leader Summit Materials [library](#). Look for your photo on the [LDOE Facebook page](#).

The Teacher Leader Summit [video](#) is now also available for viewing.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Compass Information System (CIS) Updates

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

The [Compass Information System \(CIS\)](#) teacher evaluation upload window remains open for 2021-2022 score entry. The system will not allow final submission for VAM teacher evaluations, but scores can be entered. VAM teacher evaluations can be submitted and finalized following the release of VAM in mid-October. Please continue to do the following:

- Enter and rate both SLTs for all staff,
- Enter and submit professional practice scores [for 2021-2022 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; and
- Complete teacher evaluation uploads to CIS.

Resources for [evaluation uploads](#) are located in the [Compass Library](#).

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

Workforce Reporting Updates

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

Work groups for the new Workforce Dashboard will begin in late August. System leaders who would like to participate in monthly virtual work groups to help identify areas for improvement on the Workforce Dashboard should complete this [quick survey](#).

Support for EdLink workforce data reporting can be found at the [EdLink Support page](#). Sample extract sheets that detail exactly what data is collected and how to report it can also be found on that [Support Page](#).

Please contact emily.smiley@la.gov with questions.

2022-2023 Mentor Waiver Application Now Open

Please share with school and system leaders.

At the April BESE meeting, the Board approved a waiver for the Mentor policy for the 2022-2023 school year. Mentor teacher waivers will be granted on a case-by-case basis through the application process established by the LDOE and at no fee to the applicant, school system, or teacher preparation provider.

The 2022-2023 Mentor Waiver [Application](#) is now open.

Mentor Waiver Applications must be created by the system leader responsible for resident placement and/or Mentor recruitment and support. Mentor waivers should be in place prior to **October 1**.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

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 - [Diverse Learners](#)
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Assessments, Accountability and Analytics

LEAP 2025

Please share this information with school leaders and school and district test coordinators.

Individual student LEAP score reports for grades 3-8 will be shared with school systems the week of July 25 in DRC insight. District test coordinators will receive notification on an exact date as soon as it can be confirmed.

- Parents should be provided with individual student reports and the parent guide to reports. Parent guides have been translated in several languages and are found here: [Parent Guides to Assessments](#)
- There is no rescore opportunity for tests administered to students in grades 3-8.

Additional information regarding the timeline for school, system, and state summary reports, as well as public release will be provided in next week's newsletter.

Career and College Readiness

Louisiana School Safety Summit

Please share with school system leaders, school safety and emergency preparedness personnel, school counselors/mental health providers, and law enforcement partners.

Circumstances over the last year have led to the need for more collaboration between educational institutions, law enforcement agencies and medical entities to ensure the safety of our students, educators, and the school environment. In response to this need, the LDOE, in coordination with the Louisiana State Police, will host the inaugural [Louisiana School Safety Summit](#) on **Thursday, August 4, 2022**, in [Baton Rouge, Louisiana](#) at the **Raising Cane's River Center**. Please note the **location change from Lafayette to Baton Rouge**.

Registration is now open for this free, one-day event that will bring school system leaders, local and state law enforcement officers, governmental agencies, and mental health providers together for an opportunity to share and learn best practices around school safety and emergency preparedness. All school system leaders or a designee should plan to attend.

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

School Medicaid - Health Provider Vendor Contracting Webinar

Please share with School Medicaid coordinators, school business managers, and special education directors.

The Louisiana Department of Health issued a bulletin on July 11, 2022 to remind school districts of the process for claiming Medicaid costs for school health provider vendors as a result of the 2020 State Plan Amendment. LDH strongly recommends school districts amend any contracts with their vendors immediately to avoid disallowance of costs. The LDOE hosted a webinar on July 26 at 1 p.m. to review vendor claiming requirements to maintain Center for Medicaid Service compliance.

Please contact elizabeth.duncan@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Instructional Support: Instructional Material Reviews

Please share with content supervisors and administrators.

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](#).

Publisher	Title and Grade Levels	Core Subject	Tiered Rating
McGraw Hill LLC	Wonders, Grades 3-5	ELA	Tier 1
K12, Inc.	Math + Blue, Orange Summit LA, Grades K and 2	Math	Tier 1
Children's Literacy Initiative	Blueprint for Early Learning, Ages 4-5	ECE	Tier 1

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

2022 Governor's Office of Disability Affairs Conference

Please share with system leaders and special education directors/supervisors.

In celebration of the 32nd anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs (GODA) is hosting its annual conference the week of July 25 - 28. A full list of session topics are included in the [GODA Conference Schedule](#). The conference will be held via Zoom and will be recorded, uploaded to GODA's YouTube channel, and links of the recordings will be added to the [schedule of sessions](#). [Register](#) to receive updates and access the recorded sessions.

Please contact disability.affairs@la.gov with questions.

eSER Update: Launching August 1

Please share with special education leaders and data coordinators.

As we prepare to transition from SER to eSER, the Department will take the following steps:

- **July 24 at 11:59 p.m.:** SER was made to view only. No further data entry can be made after this date, so please take caution to address any IEP deadlines during this period in advance.
- **July 25-31:** All SER data will be transferred to eSER. The Department will conduct data quality checks for accuracy.
- **August 1:** The enhanced version of SER (eSER) will go live.

Special education leaders should work with their local Security Coordinators to ensure special education staff are set up for eSER. eSER resources are available in the eSER Go LIVE section of the [SER Support page](#).

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Praxis Core Updates

Please share with human resource directors and system leaders.

On July 14, BESE President Garvey signed a waiver of BESE policy so that teacher preparation providers can enroll and schedule candidates into courses for the fall semester. This eliminates any delay in the impact of Acts [707](#) and [244](#) of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session on enrolling students into teacher preparation programs.

This **does not waive** requirements for initial certification. Additional policy recommendations based on the aforementioned Acts will be brought to BESE for consideration in August.

Last winter, the Teacher Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Task Force studied the impacts of Praxis Core on the education profession. The Task Force observed that this assessment has been a barrier to entering the workforce for decades, and the current teacher shortage has magnified the need to address this requirement quickly. The task force endorsed a proposal to remove Praxis Core, and legislation was filed to remove this from law.

Acts [707](#) and [244](#) of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session were passed into law, which removes passing an examination that includes English proficiency as a requirement for certification. BESE policy requires ACT or Praxis Core as the measure of English proficiency for both entrance to a teacher preparation program and initial certification. To align with the new law, policy changes will be presented to BESE for approval in August removing Praxis Core from program entrance and certification.

Removing this barrier is a step in the right direction and a part of a comprehensive plan to improve the educator workforce. We appreciate your commitment to this most important work.

Please contact em.cooper@la.gov with questions.

School Improvement Best Practices

Please share with system leaders.

There are [August dates](#) remaining for the 2022 Louisiana School Improvement Best Practices training sessions. [Registration](#) for the virtual training sessions will close two weeks prior to the start date. If schools have not registered to attend the [training sessions](#), it is encouraged to register as soon as possible. The August dates are the last of the 2022 Louisiana School Improvement Best Practices training sessions.

All CIR and UIR-A schools will be required to participate in the Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) Support and Teacher Collaboration Support training sessions, as well as the accompanying online portal and two days of on-site and/or virtual coaching as follow-up support to the training.

- If a CIR or UIR-A school participated in ILT support or Teacher Collaboration support trainings in Summer 2021, then it is required that they complete the “next level” training in that area in Summer 2022.
- If a CIR or UIR-A school did not participate in ILT support and Teacher Collaboration support trainings in Summer 2021, then it is required that they complete the “foundational” training in those areas in Summer 2022.

While all CIR and UIR-A schools are required to participate in the Instructional Leadership Team Support and Teacher Collaboration Support training sessions, all schools in Louisiana can participate in this opportunity to support implementation of these essential practices this summer. Each school can send up to five participants.

Please contact keisha.thomas2@la.gov with questions.

Summer Learning Program Survey

Please share with summer learning program coordinators.

The 2022 Summer Learning Program [survey](#) is available to collect information about school systems' implementation of summer learning programs. Systems who offered a 2022 Summer Learning Program should complete the survey following the conclusion of the Summer Learning Program. The survey must be completed if Achieve or Super App funding was used.

The [survey](#) should be completed by one system-level leader; systems should submit only one survey. Surveys are due **August 26**. The [survey document](#) allows all survey questions to be viewed before submitting.

Please contact keisha.thomas2@la.gov with questions.

Continuous Learning Toolkit

Please share with system leaders.

The Department has released the [Continuous Learning Toolkit](#) to support systems in developing a continuous learning plan for when school closures may occur that require modified operations on a short-, medium-, or long-term basis. To be prepared for the upcoming school year, the toolkit includes a framework for systems in developing a continuous learning plan. Continuous learning should be provided to limit unfinished learning while maintaining access to instructional programming during modified operations.

Please contact keisha.thomas2@la.gov with questions.

CLASS® Train-the-Trainer Funding Opportunity

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

Funding is still available for the [CLASS® Observer Train-the-Trainer](#) model for systems with CIR/UIR-A schools. At the school system level, the Train-the-Trainer model will allow school system leaders to build and sustain a cadre of certified observers. Available virtual training session dates include: August 2-4 and August 8-10. Interested systems will receive a link to register following completion of [assurances](#).

Congratulations to the following May and June participants for completing the CLASS® Train-the-Trainer course.

Heather Martin	Kristy Bennet	Ashley Benton	Christie Lovell
Kimberly Hebert	Brian Rogers	Ethelyn Hamilton-Frezel	Jane Biggs
Veronica Wood	Jennifer Tyler	Rushetta Felder	Maura Guillory
Brandy Sanders	Noelle Reznik	Michelle Thrower	Megan Picou
Lessonna Clark	Amy Treme	Kenyotta Williams	Amy Brister
Danielle Copeland	Rhonda Lee		

Please contact lori.pennison@la.gov with questions.

Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Listening Sessions

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

There is still time to participate in a listening session about recruitment, recovery, and retention. LDOE wants to be sure that all stakeholder groups are represented in these sessions; please send the information below to relevant stakeholder groups so that they may register and participate in the appropriate sessions.

The listening sessions provide the opportunity for stakeholders to describe his/her experiences and perceptions as well as offer suggestions on issues related to teacher recruitment, recovery, and retention. To join a session, stakeholders will follow the steps below.

1. Choose the session below that best fits his/her schedule.
2. Click the link for the session and complete the registration form.
3. Once he/she has completed the registration he/she will receive a zoom link for the session.

Stakeholder	Session Links
Superintendent	July 28 2 p.m.
Teacher	July 28 2 p.m. July 29 12 p.m.
Support staff	July 28 12 p.m.

LDOE has partnered with the Region 14 Comprehensive Center, an outside organization, to conduct these sessions. Participant names will not be shared with LDOE or associated with specific comments.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Teacher Survey

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

Over 5,800 teachers have shared their experiences, perceptions, and suggestions by completing the [Teacher Recruitment, Retention, and Recovery Survey](#). The deadline has been extended to **August** to allow more teachers to submit feedback. Please share the survey link with all teachers.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.