



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

August 22, 2023

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Message from the State Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

In Louisiana, the start of the school year traditionally parallels some of the hottest weeks of the summer and the heart of hurricane season. Our system relations team has been in contact with a number of leaders who are taking necessary precautions to keep students and employees safe from the heat. Please continue to utilize safe practices for activities such as recess or middle and high school athletics.

With a number of tropical waves in the Atlantic, I also want to encourage you to review your hurricane plans. We released the LDOE's first [Hurricane Preparedness Playbook](#) last month. The playbook supports emergency plans already in place and includes best practices for hurricane preparation, mitigation, response, and recovery.

While I hope and pray we do not need to utilize our hurricane plans this school year, it's always best to be prepared.

Dr. Cade Brumley

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [August 23 at 1 p.m](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call : [August 23 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Healthy Schools Community of Practice: [August 24 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Principal Webinar Series: [August 28 at 1 p.m.](#)
- General Fund Budget Overview Webinar: [August 29th at 2 p.m.](#)
- Mentor and Resident Data Collection Overview Webinar: [August 30 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Differentiated Compensation and Stipends Office Hour: [August 31 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [September 5 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Monthly Principal Webinar, Math and Literacy: [September 6 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call: [September 7 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Annual Financial Report (AFR) Office Hour: [September 7 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [September 14 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [September 14 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Schools Monthly Call: [September 20 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [September 21 at 10 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

[School Support Institutes](#) Session 1: September 11 - 14

Deadline to submit [Teacher/Principal, New Teacher, and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year Nominations](#): September 22

ESSER II funding obligation deadline: September 30

[Fall 2023 Counselor Institutes](#): October 24 - 26

Deadline to submit [2023-2024 PPP](#): October 31

Operations

ESSER II Incentive Funding

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

The ESSER II period of availability ends **September 30**. The LDOE supports LEAs in drawing down ESSER II Incentive balances by affording them greater flexibility in using ESSER II Incentive funds for **any allowable ESSER expenditure**. Examples include high-quality curriculum, instructional materials/supplies, literacy foundations training completion stipends, etc. Additional information, including steps to take in eGMS to amend budgets, can be found in the August FSGR Monthly Call [deck](#).

Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana ESEA Fiscal Flexibility Waiver Request

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

The LDOE requested 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 U. S. Department of Education approved the ESEA Waiver, which includes flexibility for the carryover limitation on FY 2022 Title I Part A funds (i.e., FY22 Title I waivers do not count against LEAs); and the period of availability of FY2021 funds for Title I Part A, B, C, and D; Title II Part A, Title III Part A, Title IV Part A and B; and Title V Part B Subpart 2 (i.e., FY21 funds now expire **September 30, 2024**, instead of September 30, 2023). For additional information regarding the recently approved waiver, please review the [FY21 ESEA Waiver](#).

Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Assessment, Accountability, and Analytics

K-3 Literacy Screening Braille Orders

Please share with testing coordinators.

Requests for [Braille K-3 Literacy Screener forms](#) of the DIBELS 8th Edition Fall K-3 literacy screener must be completed no later than **August 23**. Braille forms must be requested by the District Test Coordinator and shipped to the district testing address. The vendor will not ship to individual schools and orders from school test coordinators will not be forwarded to the vendor.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

New Opening Date for Interests and Opportunities

Please share with accountability contacts and school leaders.

The Interests and Opportunities JotForm, previously scheduled to be available August 21, will now be available to principals **August 28**.

Please contact accountability@la.gov with questions.

WorkKeys Accommodated Testing Window

Please share with testing coordinators.

PearsonAccess^{next} is open for fall 2023 ACT WorkKeys State testing. The deadline to complete Test Date Selection is **August 24**. Participating schools and systems must do the following:

- Complete the Test Date & Materials Receipt Selection in PearsonAccess^{next}.
- Confirm **system shipping address** in PearsonAccess^{next} is correct on the Manage Contacts screen for receiving materials. If incorrect, submit an [Address Change Request Form](#). Contact the LDOE or the system testing office for any address questions.
- Verify enrollment before ordering paper materials for Accommodations Test Window 1.

Nonparticipating schools must complete the Not Testing section on the Test Date Selection screen of PearsonAccess^{next}.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

ACT and DCAI Data Certification

Please share with accountability contacts.

Two updates were made to rosters in the La Data Review system.

- The points awarded for credits in the alternative school DCAI have been adjusted to reflect policy changes made to Bulletin 111.
- The special education classification for students included on the ACT roster was updated.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

Seeking Nominations for Excellent Educators

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

The LDOE recognizes great teachers and school leaders are critical to student success. Annually, the Department honors some of the state's most successful educators through the Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year programs, the Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year programs, and the New Teacher of the Year program (candidates for the New Teacher of the Year program must have less than one-year teaching experience).

Part of the selection process for naming the school system and state-level winners includes recommendations from teachers, principals, school system employees, parents, colleagues, and community members. To assist with the process, a [nominations portal](#) was created.

The [nominations portal](#) is open and will close on **September 22**. Multiple nominations are accepted, as well as self-nominations. Upon portal close, the nomination information will be shared with school systems for their consideration. Please share the information for the [nominations portal](#) with stakeholders and encourage everyone to nominate outstanding teachers and leaders.

Please contact the following with questions:

- Teacher/Principal of the Year: excellenteducators@la.gov
- New Teacher of the Year: laurie.carlton@la.gov
- Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year: shallan.jones@la.gov

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Math Refresh Regional Tour

Please share with content supervisors and school leaders.

The LDOE is excited to announce the Math Refresh Regional Tour. Fall topics include supporting Zearn Implementation, leveraging Math Refresh resources, and launching Foundational Lessons for Accelerating Math Education (FLAME) resources. Interested participants should register to learn about the initiatives and resources available. School and system leaders are encouraged to select and invite local Teacher Leaders to join them for morning or afternoon sessions. For dates, locations, and registration, please refer to the [Math Regional Tour](#) flier.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Leader Support for Zearn Implementation

Please share with content supervisors and school leaders.

The LDOE has partnered with Zearn to provide monthly support webinars for middle school leaders. The sessions will provide a space for middle school leaders to learn together and collaborate. Leaders will gather each month to discuss a pertinent implementation topic and then have time to ask questions, solve problems, and celebrate progress. The first webinar is scheduled for September 12.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 12 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4842902246>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-558-8656
- **Webinar ID:** 484 290 2246

For future dates and webinar information, please refer to the [Leader Support for Zearn Implementation](#) flier.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Instructional Support: Instructional Materials Reviews

Please share with content supervisors, literacy coaches, and school leaders.

The LDOE 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](#) web page. The status of all instructional materials submissions can be found in the [Weekly Report](#).

- Learning Without Tears - Get Set for School Complete PreK Program, Ages 4-5 (©2021)
- 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)
- Activate Learning - Activate Learning OpenSciEd, Grades 6-7 (©2022)
- OER Project - OER Project World History - 1200 (©2022)

The LDOE 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 on compliance. The materials listed below have been reviewed for compliance and posted to the [Tiered Reviews](#) web page.

- 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 ELA Grade 2 (©2018)
- 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 LDOE 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](#) web page.

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Teacher Leader Summit 2024: Save the Date

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

The 12th annual Teacher Leader Summit will be held May 28-30, 2024, at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. Registration and presenter application details will be released this fall.

Please contact events@emergentmethod.com with questions.

Summit Extensions 2024-2025 Registration is Open

Please share with school system cabinet leaders.

[Summit Extensions](#) are fall and winter half-day professional learning experiences for key school system-level leaders to focus on the implementation of the [Professional Learning Roadmap](#), which underpins the state's Vision for Success.

[Registration](#) is open. Attendees at the Summit Extension should include the superintendent and the existing school system-level instructional leadership team or senior cabinet members. The school system leadership team may register through Eventbrite. Early registration is encouraged as seats are limited. One person from the team may register all team members, and all team members should attend one location. The fall Summit Extensions will be held in three locations across the state.

- November 7: Baton Rouge
- November 8: Lake Charles
- November 9: Shreveport

Please contact events@emergentmethod.com with questions.

Teacher Exit Survey

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

The teacher exit survey data collection period is now open. Data should be submitted through teachlouisiana.net for the 2022-2023 school year. [Instructions](#) on completing this process can be found on teachlouisiana.net. Exit survey data must be submitted by **September 15**.

Please contact donna.baudoin@la.gov with questions.

Student Learning Target (SLT) Guidance

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

Educators may begin setting SLTs for the 2023-2024 school year. Many resources are available in the [Compass Library](#) to support educators in this process. The [SLT Assessment Identification Guide](#) provides a list of approved assessments to assist in measuring students' attainment of learning targets. State assessments should not be used to set student learning targets. Approved literacy screeners and high-quality curriculum-based assessments are encouraged when available. The [SLT Guidance and Sample Templates](#) outline the types of targets and processes for setting targets and provide sample templates. The [Student Learning Target FAQ](#) answers common questions about student learning targets.

SLTs can be entered into the [Compass Information System \(CIS\)](#) following the system rollover to 2023-2024 following VAM release in October. [Bulletin 130](#) requires that a meeting take place between the

evaluator and the evaluatee to discuss each student learning target; student learning targets not discussed in a meeting between the evaluator and evaluatee shall not be used in the evaluation.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

School Improvement

School Support Institutes 2023-2024

Please share with school leaders and school system leaders.

The first sessions of the [2023-2024 School Support Institutes](#) are fast approaching! Nearly 1,400 members of Instructional Leadership teams across the state have registered to participate in this exciting professional learning opportunity. Brand new content for all SSI learning pathways is focused on cultivating instructional coherence that meets the needs of all learners and supporting HQIM implementation.

Please see the [SSI logistics page](#) for detailed venue, parking, and pre-work information. Please note that the Baton Rouge cohort is split between two locations depending on the learning pathway. All registered participants will receive reminder emails with detailed session information.

Please contact doessisupportteam@tntp.org for technical support.

Best Practices Level 1 and 2 Trainings for New School ILT Members

Please share with school leaders and school system leaders.

The [Division of School Improvement](#) is pleased to continue its partnership with NIET to provide foundational training in Instructional Leadership Teams (ILTs) and Teacher Collaboration (TC) throughout the Fall of 2023. These Level 1 and 2 trainings are offered free of charge and are appropriate for leaders who have not completed this foundational training. This includes new school leaders, ILT members, and teacher leaders who facilitate Teacher Collaboration sessions. These trainings are offered both virtually and on-site at regional locations from August through October. Please visit the [NIET Best Practices Training](#) site for session schedules and registration information.

Please contact schoolimprovementdivision@la.gov with questions.