



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

August 23, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Reading is the most foundational skill we can provide our students. It doesn't get more basic, or more critical, than teaching a child to read. As I've shared over the past two years, we're facing a literacy crisis in Louisiana. Together, we have laid the foundation for a reading revival. [I outlined our "back to the basics" approach recently in The Advocate.](#)

Mississippi committed to literacy in 2013. That investment has led to tremendous student achievement today. Progress takes time, but we are beginning to see growth. Our latest LEAP data showed a 3 percent increase in ELA Mastery. That's the most significant increase in six years.

We are encouraged by this early growth, and far from satisfied. Our children deserve much more, especially when it comes to a skill as basic as being able to read. Thank you for helping me spark a reading revival across our state.

Dr. Cade Brumley

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- [Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: August 24 at 1 p.m.](#)
- [Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: August 25 at 10 a.m.](#)
- [Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: August 25 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [August 29 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- Principal Monthly Call: [August 31 at 1 p.m.](#)
- **New Call:** School System Financial Services Monthly Call: [August 31 at 2 p.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [September 2 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [September 6 at 1 p.m.](#)
- CWA Liaisons and Louisiana Attendance Alliance Monthly Call: [September 7 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Leaders Monthly Call: [September 7 at 10 a.m.](#)
- K-2 Learning Year: Phase I Office Hours: [September 7 at 12 p.m.](#)
- Charter Authorizers Monthly Call: [September 8 at 9 a.m.](#)
- School Medicaid Monthly Call: [September 20 at 2:30 p.m.](#)
- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: September 20 at 3:45 p.m.](#)
- Well-Being Monthly Call: [September 21 at 9:30 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events

- 2022 SPED Leader Back-to-School Webinar: [September 8 at 2 p.m.](#)
- 2022-2023 Student of the Year Award Program Webinar: [September 13 at 2 p.m.](#)

Assessments, Accountability and Analytics

ACT/ WorkKeys

Please share with district test coordinators and high school supervisors.

ACT announced the following changes:

- The [Success](#) platform will store five years of data. The oldest data will be purged every year on September 1, beginning with the 2017-2018 records purge on September 1, 2022, and adding 2022-2023 data,
- Student reports sent to students and returned undeliverable will be mailed to schools for distribution to students,
- ACT has eliminated training packets,
- Manuals are available online on the [ACT State Testing](#) site if testing online, manuals will be mailed for paper testing and also available online.

• WorkKeys Fall Administration

- In PANext, schools that are not administering paper assessments should select “Not Applicable/Online Testing.”

Data Certification

Please share with accountability contacts and system leaders.

All primary accountability contacts received emails that announced the opening of ACT and DCAI data certification with attached resource documents. All requests for changes to data must be entered no later than August 31.

NAEP

Please share with NAEP coordinators of schools notified for participation in NAEP.

The department is hosting two webinars for schools that were selected to participate in NAEP assessment activities. The dates below reflect the same webinar that is offered on two different days.

Topic: What is NAEP? Introduction to NAEP 2022-23

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 6 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:**
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99296436522?pwd=UEhrNlpTRERHmVl5S1d0ZXp6U0ovZz09>
- **Meeting ID:** 992 9643 6522
- **Passcode:** 837585
- **One tap mobile**
 - +13126266799,,99296436522#,,,,*837585# US (Chicago)
 - +14702509358,,99296436522#,,,,*837585# US (Atlanta)

or

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 8 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:**
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98748216446?pwd=Vy9MYWhhanhsN21qUnZUZmR4V0JGUT09>
- **Meeting ID:** 987 4821 6446
- **Passcode:** 355763
- **One tap mobile**
 - +14702509358,,98748216446#,,,,*355763# US (Atlanta)
 - +14703812552,,98748216446#,,,,*355763# US (Atlanta)

Interests and Opportunities

Please share with accountability contacts and system leaders.

Principals and accountability contacts received email notification regarding the availability of the Interests and Opportunities Survey that must be completed **by November 4**. Data submitted in the survey will be used to calculate point awards for the SPS Interests and Opportunities index.

Career and College Readiness

Pupil Progression Plan Submission

Please share with school system administrators.

The Pupil Progression Plan (PPP) is the comprehensive plan developed and adopted by each school system, based on student performance. The plan also addresses student placement, promotion, retention, and specific policy decisions of the school system.

The locally adopted Pupil Progression Plan should be submitted as a PDF to PPP@la.gov by **September 9**. The [2022-2023 template](#) is available in the School Policy library and has been updated to reflect some changes in heading titles. If you have submitted your plan already you don't need to submit an updated plan. Please contact PPP@la.gov with any questions.

2022-2023 Student of the Year Guidelines

Please share with system leaders, Student of the Year coordinators, principals and counselors.

Newly revised Student of the Year Guidelines and accompanying documents will be available to school systems in early September and a webinar has been scheduled to explain the changes.

Revisions include additional regions, changes in organizational structure as well as shifts in portfolio scoring weights.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 13; 1 - 2:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91787908534>
- **Meeting ID:** 917 8790 8534
- **Passcode:** 421010

Please contact marian.johnson@la.gov with questions.

2022-2023 Instructional Resources for AP Teachers Webinar

Please share with AP teachers, testing coordinators and counselors.

The College Board will host a session designed for teachers new to AP or educators wanting to learn more about the free instructional resources available through AP Central. Participants will specifically learn more about documents to support course implementation, like Course Exam Descriptions and online resources available through AP Classroom.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 14; 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://collegeboard.zoom.us/j/94851577628>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346-248-7799
- **Meeting ID:** 948 5157 7628
- **Passcode:** fqJD8Cdmn1

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

Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)-Mobile Vaccine Teams Available for School Systems

Please share with superintendents and principals.

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has extended contracts with Mobile Vaccination Providers across the state that allow any school systems, and any school, to host a mobile vaccination event. This allows the option for parents, guardians, or caregivers to have children vaccinated at school.

School systems that would like assistance setting up a COVID-19 vaccination events at an on-site or off site location should complete this [survey](#). A representative from the Department of Health will contact the school system to discuss the request.

To learn more about on-site vaccination clinics, please visit www.ldh.la.gov/schoolsignup. Please contact la.immunization@la.gov or healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

Monthly Call for Business Managers

Please forward to business managers and finance officials.

The first [monthly call](#) of the 2022-23 fiscal year for Business Managers and Finance Officials will be August 31 at 2:00 pm via Zoom. The agenda will include information regarding upcoming due dates and other pertinent topics.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** August 31 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:**
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99726217222?pwd=ZWZ2NTgxeXRpTmxXK3g1eG1TQzN3Zz09>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID:** 997 2621 7222

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

Searching for Louisiana's Next State Teacher and Principal of the Year and New Teacher of the Year

Please share with stakeholders, including principals and teachers.

The Department 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, as well as 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 district and state-level winners includes recommendations from teachers, principals, district employees, parents, colleagues, and community members. To assist with the process, a nominations portal was created. The nominations portal is open now and will close on September 30. 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 [nomination portal link](#) with stakeholders and encourage everyone to nominate outstanding teachers and leaders.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions regarding Teacher/Principal of the Year; email Laurie.Carlton@la.gov with questions about New Teacher of the Year.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022)

Please share with ELA teachers of grade 3-5.

In Spring 2022, the Department offered systems the opportunity to participate in an implementation pilot and a materials review of three ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) units: Because of Winn-Dixie, The Whipping Boy, and The Birchbark House. The systems who participated in the pilot and materials review were surveyed and the results from the pilot and materials review can be found in the [ELA Guidebooks 3-5 \(2022\) Feedback report](#). The Department appreciates all of the educator engagement and will incorporate this feedback into revisions of ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) units throughout the 2022-2023 school year.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Praxis Core Updates

Please share with human resource directors and system leaders.

On August 12, BESE President Garvey signed an additional waiver of BESE policy that waives the requirement of Praxis core for certification. However, this **does not waive** the Praxis core requirement to apply for a Temporary Authority to Teach (TAT). This waiver is in effect until the Board considers policy revisions at the August BESE meeting.

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.

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

Summer Learning Program Survey

Please share with summer learning program coordinators.

The [2022 Summer Learning Program Survey](#) is due **August 26** and should be completed for systems who offered a 2022 Summer Learning Program or if Achieve/Super App funding was used. As part of CIR/UIR-A and funding requirements, the survey is being used to collect information about school systems' implementation of summer learning programs.

The [survey](#) should be completed by one system-level leader with school systems only submitting **one** survey. All of the questions can be viewed on the [survey document](#) before submitting.

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

K-2 Learning Year: Phase I Teacher Webinar

Please share with systems leaders and school leaders and teachers.

The LDOE will host a webinar for teachers participating in the K-2 Learning Year: Phase I. A representative from the University of Lafayette Picard Center will discuss the purpose, processes, and protocols regarding third-party observations.

- **Meeting Date and Time:** September 1 at 4 p.m.
- **Meeting Link:**
<https://doe.zoom.us/j/99423703660?pwd=M2x3Zm90bHI1K3lXdmdSM3VHV3pMdz09>
- **Meeting ID#:** 994 2370 3660
- **Meeting Passcode:** 638154

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

Educator Evaluation Survey

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

As part of Louisiana's Recruitment and Retention Plan, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is reviewing the current Louisiana educator evaluation system that was created over ten years ago in order to identify areas for improvement.

The LDOE is asking for the input of educators that are evaluated and educators that are evaluators via a survey. The [leader survey](#) and [teacher survey](#) close on September 30 and will provide educators an opportunity to share opinions and ideas on the current evaluation system. Please share these surveys with all school leaders and teachers.

Please email compass@la.gov with questions.

Workforce Reporting Updates

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

Data managers, it's time to finalize 2021-2022 school year workforce/MFP data entry. The deadline to complete this task is August 26. EdLink will shift 2021-2022SY data to final/historical beginning on **August 27**. For support, visit [EdLink's Support page](#) to find recorded training sessions and sample spreadsheets.

For troubleshooting and reporting issues, email systemsupport@la.gov.

Teacher Exit Survey 2021-2022

Please share with human resource directors and systems leaders.

HR managers can now access the annual Teacher Exit Survey on [TeachLouisiana.net](https://teachlouisiana.net) for the 2021-2022 school year. This survey collects district level data on reasons for teacher departure over the last school year. The survey is open until September 16, and HR managers will receive an email with detailed instructions to help facilitate this process.

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

Literacy

Resource: Universal Screener Data Analysis Templates

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

The Literacy Division has released updated templates for analyzing universal screening data and making data-based decisions based on specific student needs. The templates are structured to cover beginning-, middle-, and end-of-year data collection so that a comprehensive plan can be developed. There is an analysis template available for each level of analysis and planning including small group planning for interventionists, student grouping templates for teachers, school-wide data analysis tables for school sites, and system-level data analysis.

- [Universal Screener Analysis Template - Teacher](#)
- [Universal Screener Analysis Template - Site Leader](#)
- [Universal Screener Analysis Template - System Leader](#)
- [Universal Screener Analysis Template - Interventionist](#)

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

Operations Reminders

Homeless Coordinator and Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator 2022 Back-to-School Training

Please share with Homeless Liaisons and Parent and Family Engagement Coordinators.

LDOE will be providing a back-to-school training for both Homeless Coordinators and Parent and Family Engagement Coordinators on August 29, 2022 from 8 a.m until 4:30 p.m. The training will be held in person at the Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802. The variety of sessions offered will provide information on federal mandates and updates for both programs, results of the statewide Parent and Family Engagement Survey, information on migrant and English learners programs, PimsPoints and Be Engaged Bot updates, EdLink, monitoring, and much more. All Homeless and Parent and Family Engagement Coordinators are asked to please attend.

Please contact antiqua.hunter@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 any questions.*

Ready to Achieve! 2022-2023 Operational Guidelines

Please share with school system leaders.

The Louisiana Department of Education has updated the Ready to Achieve! 2022-2023 Operational Guidelines to reflect the most recent recommendations released by the Centers for Disease Control on

August 11, 2022. Please share this information with system leaders and administration. Please contact meredith.mcgovern@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability and Analytics Reminders

Data Certification

Please share with district accountability contacts and system leaders.

On August 15 the La Data Review system opened for review of ACT and DCAI rosters. Accountability contacts in school systems that had ACT and/or DCAI rosters were sent an email with login credentials, guidance, and additional resources developed to support the review process. Additional emails will be sent to accountability contacts who have only assessment data to check by the end of the month. Please contact jennifer.baird@la.gov with questions.

ACT

Please share with test coordinators.

August 26: Deadline to enter fall testing dates for WorkKeys and adjust enrollment counts for WorkKeys accommodated paper material in *PANext*. All accommodations can be administered online except large print and braille. Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

LEAP Connect

Please share with test coordinators, special education teachers and supervisors.

The department approved Prioritized LEAP Connectors for English language arts, mathematics and science to provide instructional support and planning resources for teachers and content leaders.

The *Prioritized Connectors Guide* is available in the LEAP Connect Assessment Resources section of the Assessment Guidance Library on the department website.

Please contact Tywanna.Dushime@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness Reminders

Jump Start Funding Guidance

Please share with CTE supervisors and school system leaders.

The Department has released updated Jump Start funding guidance for the 2022-2023 school year. This guidance includes:

- [2022-2023 List of CDF Qualifying Courses](#)
- [2022-2023 Guidelines for Use CDF Allocation](#)
- [2022-2023 Jump Start Funding Guidance](#)

Please contact jessica.vallelungo@la.gov with questions.

Seizure Disorder Training

Please share with school employees and school nurses.

Louisiana Act 562 requires the Department to approve and provide courses of instruction regarding treating students with seizure disorders that include information about seizure recognition and related first

aid; one each for: (1) School nurses. (2) Other school employees, including school bus operators, who have regular interactions with students with seizure management and treatment plans. Nurses and employees are required to complete such courses biennially.

The Epilepsy Alliance of Louisiana offers training on Seizure Recognition and First Aid for School Personnel and Managing Students with Seizures: A Training for School Nurses. The Epilepsy Foundation offers online courses on demand for school employees and nurses. Please contact michael.comeaux@la.gov with questions.

Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment Waiver Requirements for Schools **Please share with school nurses and business managers.**

Any facility, including schools performing testing on a sample obtained from an individual (blood, saliva, urine, respiratory swab, etc.), requires a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) certificate covering the complexity of testing. The Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 are the regulations for clinical laboratory testing inclusive of any COVID testing, glucometer testing, flu testing or pregnancy testing.

The Center for Medicaid Services issues fee coupons by mail for both initial certification as well as renewal. Certificate cycles are 2 years and fee is based on complexity of testing. Waived testing is typical for schools and is \$180 for a 2 year cycle. Schools may check online to determine certificate status at CMS laboratory demographic lookup at QCOR lookup. Please contact elizabeth.duncan@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services Reminders

FY2022-2023 Annual Adopted Budget and General Fund Budget Submission

Please share with business managers and financial officials of city/parish school districts. Louisiana R.S. 17:88 requires that city/parish school boards submit an adopted balanced budget to the Department no later than **September 30** each year. The **FY2022-2023 Adopted Annual Budget Memo** and **FY2022-2023 Adopted Budget Submission Instructions** provide guidance, documents to be completed and additional resources. Please email schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov or call School System Financial Services at 225-342-3617 for additional information.

Teaching and Learning Reminders

Educator Development

Pre-Educator Pathway System Leader Professional Learning Community

Please share with the lead contact for the Pre-Educator Pathway in your school system.

Offered twice each semester, System Lead Professional Learning Community meetings are virtual opportunities for Pre-Educator Pathway/Grow Your Own System leads to share best practices related to developing and expanding access to the Pre-Educator Pathway.

- **Webinar Dates and Time:** September 1, 10-11 a.m.; November 3, 10-11 a.m.; February 2, 1-2 p.m.; April 6, 10-11a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3455048179>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** +13462487799,,3455048179#

- **Meeting ID:** 345 504 8179

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Principal Webinar Series

Please share with principals and principal supervisors.

The LDOE will hold a monthly webinar series for current school leaders. The August webinar will highlight our 2023 State Principal of the Year, David Schexnaydre, and Division Level Honorees Heather Brooks, Michael Hilton, and Tamela Phillips. These celebrated principals will take part in a panel discussion focusing on strong back to school practices.

- **Webinar Date/Time:** August 31; 1-2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:**
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98516144298?pwd=VHoxSlhaNWwhFZUNrQWICS05MRHlzZz09>
- **Meeting ID:** 985 1614 4298
- **Passcode:** 125571

Please reach out to louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

Local Literacy Plan Guidance

Please share with system and school literacy leaders.

The Literacy Division has released the second of a series of webinars to support literacy leaders with the development of local literacy plans. This most recent webinar focuses on the inclusion of explicit literacy instruction, interventions, and extensions in local literacy plan goals and action steps. The resources listed below provide literacy leaders with targeted support for planning and implementing literacy best practices. Look for the next webinar on planning for ongoing professional growth opportunities in local literacy plans in mid-September. These webinars and related resources can also be found in the [Literacy Library](#) under Local Literacy Plan Guidance.

- [Planning for Explicit Instruction, Intervention, and Extension slide deck](#)
- [Planning for Explicit Instruction, Intervention, and Extension recording](#)
- Updated, fully editable [Local Literacy Plan Template](#)

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.