

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



September 4, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

As this email is being received, Gordon is heading toward our coastline and that of our neighboring states. We pray for the safety of our communities and send our best wishes to you, your staff, and the families you serve. Please call on us throughout the event whenever the state can be helpful to you.

Other than the impending storm, the 2018-2019 school year is off to a great start. Students are getting settled into classroom routines, and teachers have started to get to know their pupils and their unique needs. This is also an important time for school systems and school leaders as they begin to set learning goals for the year and execute their academic plans.

Next week, the Department will kick-off the fall [Supervisor](#) and [Teacher Leader](#) Collaborations to support educators across the state in implementing their 2018-2019 plans. Each event will begin with an opening session outlining 2018-2019 priorities and support for school improvement and will be followed with sessions on using curriculum implementation tools, new LEAP 2025 science assessments, STEM pathways, supporting improvement in low performing early childhood sites, and quality implementation of mentor teachers and content leaders, among many others.

[Registration](#) for both events closes this Friday, September 7. The Supervisor Collaborations require a code for registration that can be provided by your network team. Please encourage your Teacher Leaders to attend either the Baton Rouge (September 10), Harvey (September 13), or Ruston (September 18) events. The Teacher Leader Collaboration in Baton Rouge on September 17 has been canceled.

We look forward to seeing you at next week's events. Don't forget to download your session materials from [Supervisor Collaboration library](#) by the end of the week. Additional details about both events can be found in the [Supervisor](#) and [Teacher Leader](#) Collaboration overviews.

Regards,

The Louisiana Department of Education Team

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [September School System Planning Call](#): September 5 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar](#): September 6 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Special Education Leader Monthly Webinar](#): September 6 at 2:00 p.m.
- [So You Want to Train Another NCCER Craft Instructor Webinar](#): September 6 at 2:30 p.m.
- Louisiana STEM Advisory Council Statewide Summit: September 7
- Baton Rouge September Collaborations: September 10
- [High Cost Services Webinar](#): September 11 at 10:00 a.m.
- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours](#): September 11 at 1:00 p.m.
- Harvey September Collaborations: September 13

Important Deadlines

- Deadline to register for the September [Supervisor](#) and [Teacher Leader](#) Collaborations: September 7
- Deadline to enter teacher evaluation scores in CIS: September 7
- Deadline to submit [mentor and resident data](#): September 7
- Deadline to submit [RFI](#) to support behavior intervention and student discipline: September 12
- Deadline to report [Course Choice/SCA](#) enrollments: September 14

School System Support

Reminder: September School System Planning Call

The [September School System Planning Call](#) will take place tomorrow, September 5 at 1:00 p.m. The following school system supervisors should participate:

- Early childhood supervisors
- Curriculum and instruction supervisors
- District test coordinators and accountability contacts
- High school and career and technical supervisors
- Personnel directors
- Talent (Mentors, Content Leaders, Teacher Leaders) supervisors

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 5 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/>
- **Meeting ID#:** 398875849
- Please enter your full name, and school system name when logging in.

Email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Louisiana STEM Advisory Council Statewide Summit

Please share with Superintendents and School System STEM Coordinators.

The inaugural LaSTEM Statewide summit will be held this **Friday, September 7** at Pennington Biomedical Research Center, 6400 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808. The Summit seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- To **showcase** some of the most effective, resourceful, and impactful STEM activities and programs in Louisiana, as well as some federal STEM agencies, through interactive exhibits and demonstrations
- To provide a venue for STEM Teacher Professional Development programs to host up to a full day of **training** for K-12 STEM Educators

- To host informative and engaging **breakout sessions** for educators, administrators, legislators and leaders from PK-Postsecondary education about **STEM policy trends**, school and industry **partnerships**, the creation and development of **Regional STEM Hubs** in Louisiana, and **success stories** of existing STEM ecosystems in Louisiana and throughout the country
- To function as a **fundraiser** for the support of LaSTEM initiatives and LaSTEM-endorsed programs

There is no cost to attend the event, but you must [register](#) using your school system email address. Lunch will be provided.

For additional information please contact lastem@regents.la.gov.

Reminder: Date Change for 2019 Teacher Leader Summit

Please share with principals and teachers.

The dates previously announced for the 2019 Teacher Leader Summit have changed. The Summit will now take place June 26-28, 2019 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. The [2018-2019 School System Planning Calendar](#) has been updated to reflect this change.

Email louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Opportunity for Early Childhood Community Networks

Louisiana has worked since 2012 to establish a foundation of fundamental quality standards in early childhood care and education. To address the challenges of access and quality, the Department released a Request for Applications on August 31 seeking community networks to be part of a ground-breaking pilot. The Department will support them to drive improvement by (a) locally allocating seats and (b) providing development through coordinated local governance. An informational [webinar](#) will be conducted September 5 at 3:00 p.m.

Please contact kaye.eichler@la.gov for more information.

Assessment and Accountability

New: Reminders for District Testing Coordinators

General

- All changes to district test coordinators (DTCs) or accountability contacts must be submitted to the Department using the [DTC and Accountability Contact Update form](#) found in the [Assessment Library](#).
- School systems wishing to appeal LDOE assessment voids must send a complete appeal request to assessment@la.gov by September 7.
- Prior to testing in INSIGHT all schools and school systems should run the system readiness check to ensure devices are ready for testing. Instructions can be found in the [Technology User Guide](#).

K-3

- School systems should prepare to administer the kindergarten-readiness screener and a K-3 literacy screener within the first 30 days of school, and will submit the data with the SIS October 1 MFP Collection.
- The [2018-2019 Guidance](#) on the Kindergarten Entry Assessment and K-3 Literacy Screening Assessment has been released.

LEAP 2025

- High school practice tests are now available for student access in INSIGHT.
- Access LEAP 2025 Online Tools Training (OTT) in INSIGHT or via website in Google Chrome and available Student Tutorials in [eDIRECT](#).
- Begin installing TSMs and INSIGHT on devices that will be used for online assessments using the [eDIRECT Technology User Guide](#).

LEAP 360

- New LEAP 360 Diagnostic reports will be available in [eDIRECT](#) within the week. Diagnostic Test Session Summary Reports, Test Session Roster Reports, and School Summary Reports will refresh every 24 hours.
- There will be two LEAP 360 sessions at the September Supervisor and Teacher Leader Collaborations: LEAP 360 Assessment Inventory and LEAP 360 Updates and Resources.

ELPT and ELPS

- Improvements to TIDE went live on August 27. Updates will include the ability to search for Participation Reports for up to 20 schools at a time and user email confirmation when logging into TIDE/ORS from a new device.
- The Online Reporting System (ORS) is now open for access to ELPT and ELPS reports. The ORS can be accessed through the [Louisiana EL portal](#) under [ELPS](#). Results for ELPS that include Step Three responses will be available in the ORS within 7 calendar days after the test has been submitted.
- There will be an ELPS Overview and Test Administration session at the September Supervisor and Teacher Leader Collaborations.

Assessment Administration Support and Training

Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be held on September 11 at 1:00 p.m.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 11 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 669-900-6833
- **Meeting ID#:** 393463942

The [Office Hours Questions and Answers](#) document is posted in the [Assessment Library](#).

Reminder: Release of 2017-2018 LEAP 2025 Progress Data

Last week, the Department released the 2017-2018 LEAP 2025 progress data. These files, along with the media briefing presentation can be found in the [PK-8](#) and [High School Performance](#) libraries. Prior to the release, the Department hosted a webinar to provide school system leaders with an overview of the student progress measure and how this data should be used to improve student achievement. A copy of the [presentation](#) and [recording of the webinar](#) are now available.

Please contact your Network Leader or email assessment@la.gov with additional questions.

Reminder: Release of 2017-2018 School Performance Score Calculator

The [2017-2018 School Performance Score Calculator](#) is available in the accountability library. School systems and schools can use the calculator, in conjunction with the data certification rosters that they received, to estimate school performance scores. At the September collaborative, the Department will host a session on how to use the calculator using simulated data.

Please email assessment@la.gov with any additional questions.

Reminder: Practice Test Access and Webinars

Please share with school leaders and teachers.

Practice Test Access

- Practice tests for **high school** have been available in [teacher access](#) since July and will be available for student access in September.
- Practice tests for **grades 3-8** will be available in [teacher access](#) in September and in student access in January.

Practice Test Webinars

The Department will host three webinars in October and January for individuals who may need a refresher on using practice tests or those who are new to this resource.

- October 3 at 4:00 p.m.
- October 16 at 3:00 p.m.
- January 9 at 4:00 p.m.

Teachers and supervisors who attend this webinar will learn general information about resources and specific information about best uses and common misuses. Additional details regarding these webinars will be provided in the newsletter in September.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

High School Pathways

New: Career Development Fund Technical Review Webinar

Please share with CTE supervisors and business managers.

The Department will host a webinar on September 25 to provide an overview of the proper and improper expenditures of Career Development Funds (CDF), and how school systems with large CDF carryover balances will be contacted to determine their definitive plans for appropriately spending these CDF funds in 2018-2019. As a reminder, CDFs must be dedicated to expanding student opportunities to participate in high-demand, high-wage Jump Start pathways.

- **Webinar Date and time:** September 25 at 4:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/137540785>
- **Meeting ID#:** 137540785
- Please enter your first and last name and school system name when logging in.

The webinar will be recorded and posted on the [All Things Jump Start website](#). For more information, please email dave.lefkowith@la.gov.

Reminder: Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA)/Course Choice

Please share with school and school system SCA administrators and professional school counselors.

MFP allocations for SCA/Course Choice can be found in [Table 4 of the 2018-2019 MFP documentation](#). SCA allocations can be used for academic, AP/honors/advanced, career-focused, remedial or dual enrollment coursework.

Enrollments with Course Choice and Dual Enrollment providers for fall and full year coursework should be documented in the [SCA Portal](#) by **September 14 at 5:00 p.m.** Please email sca@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Louisiana Office of Student Financial Aid (LOSFA) Workshops

Please share with professional school counselors.

The LOSFA Professional School Counselor Workshops are designed to help students gain college access and persist through the first year of postsecondary education. Topics include LOSFA's 5-Point Match, FAFSA updates from the Department and LOSFA, college admissions procedures, and TOPS application processing.

[Register](#) for one of the following dates:

- Baton Rouge: September 17
- New Orleans: September 18
- Lafayette: September 19
- Lake Charles: September 20
- Shreveport: September 24
- Monroe: September 25
- Alexandria: September 26

Schools can register up to eight counselors at once. Counselors who wish to attend a different or additional workshop must register for that location separately.

Please contact rhonda.bridevaux@la.gov for more information.

Reminder: Request for Information to Support Behavioral Intervention and Student Discipline

Louisiana's state education plan under ESSA identifies schools who are removing students from a regular education setting at an excessive rate due to disciplinary reasons, defined as approximately twice the national average, as a student subgroup to be provided targeted supports. Based upon 2017-2018 school data, the Department has identified 215 schools that have had excessive out-of-school suspension rates for three consecutive years.

Research suggests that nearly every effective model of school improvement strategies relies on external support. As such, Louisiana seeks to identify partners that can provide best-in-class supports and co-design plans with schools, school systems, and the state to dramatically improve student behavior, and in turn, student achievement.

The Department welcomes responses from a wide range of entities, including school systems, not-for-profits, charter school organizations, innovation management organizations, start-up organizations and institutions of higher learning. Organizations must be willing to partner with local school systems and schools to co-construct and execute improvement plans.

Please email the [Discipline and Behavior Intervention Request for Information](#) no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 12 to dari.miller@la.gov.

For additional information please contact katie.barras@la.gov.

Educator Preparation

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

Please forward to 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.

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.

If you or someone you know meets the criteria below, please submit a nomination. Self-nominations are also accepted.

- Demonstrates excellence in the field, guiding students of all backgrounds and abilities to achieve excellence
- Demonstrates leadership and innovation in and outside of the classroom walls that embodies lifelong learning
- Collaborates with colleagues, students, and families to create a school culture of respect and success

Nominations must be submitted via the [nominations portal](#) by September 28.

The portal may also be accessed by visiting the [Department's website](#). Nominations will be sent to the local school systems for consideration as they select their top candidates to participate in the state-level process.

Please email excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Special Education

New: Join the Special Education Leader Monthly Webinar

The Department will hold its **monthly webinar for school system directors, supervisors, and coordinators of special education on September 6 at 2:00 p.m.** Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, guidance, and training opportunities. Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 6 at 2:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/670515231>
- **Meeting ID#:** 670515231
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 408-638-0968; 670515231# (dial in only)

For more information, please email specialeducation@la.gov.

New: Special Education Parent Survey Results to be Released

Each year, the Department is required to report on the percent of parents with a child receiving special education services who report their school facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities. Parent survey results for the 2017-2018 school year will be available **this Friday, September 7** via the FTP site with the file name: 2018 Parent Survey Results.

Please contact your school system's FTP coordinator to retrieve the report. A list of participating school systems that will have results is also [available](#).

For more information, please email specialeducation@la.gov.

Reminder: High Cost Services Webinar

The Department has established a high cost services fund to support Louisiana school systems and schools that serve students with the most difficult needs. On September 11 at 10:00 a.m., the Department will host a webinar to explain the 2018-2019 application.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 11 at 10:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/759589140>

Please email terri.byrd@la.gov with questions or for more information.

Data

Reminder: Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for data coordinators and data managers of eScholar, SPS, SPC, SIS, SER, PEP and STS on September 6 at 1:00 p.m. Topics will include 2018-2019 data submissions, upcoming deadlines, system enhancements, other updates and best practices.

- **Meeting Date and Time:** September 6 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/976397929>

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Policy

Reminder: Policy Updates and Reminders

The Department has been asked to provide a few reminders to school systems regarding laws related to student immunizations, internet safety, suicide prevention training, and promotion of students with disabilities. A summary of those reminders is now [available](#).

Please contact erin.bendily@la.gov for more information.

Safe and Healthy Schools

Reminder: Flu Facts and the Dangers of HPV

On behalf of the Louisiana Office of Public Health Immunization program, the Department is requesting that schools share the [Flu Facts](#) and [HPV Fact Sheet](#) with parents. Both documents contain information regarding the dangers of the flu and HPV, how students, parents, and school staff can practice prevention, and the importance of vaccination.

Please contact michael.comeaux@la.gov if there are any questions.