



# LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**September 21, 2021**

Dear Colleagues,

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

I share those important words with you today in recognition of Constitution Week that is presently ongoing across America. One can see, through the passionate words of the Preamble, the desires in the hearts of our Founding Fathers. Their hope was to create a government that could long endure and lift citizens in their pursuits of happiness — and they have done just that. Our story is one of struggle and success and, despite her imperfection, there's no place I'd rather call home than the United States of America.

As educators, we can meet the obligation of the Constitution in many ways, such as simply sharing the primary document with our students. I've attached it here with a link to [the National Constitution Center](#).

For over two centuries, countless Americans have sought to defend, embrace, and protect the Constitution of the United States – we must do our part as well to secure our Democratic Republic. In the words of President Ronald Reagan, “Freedom is a fragile thing and it's never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by way of inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people.”

Thanks for all you do. Despite so many challenges, our educators continue to meet the moment. Please remain optimistic; the students you serve need you. So does the State of Louisiana and the United States of America.

Best,

Dr. Cade Brumley  
State Superintendent of Education

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## Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
AE Leadership Community of Practice	<a href="#">September 22 at 10 a.m.</a>
Data Coordinator Office Hours	<a href="#">September 23 at 1 p.m.</a>
School System Planning Office Hours	<a href="#">September 24 at 10 a.m.</a>
Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours	<a href="#">September 27 at 3:30 p.m.</a>
P-EBT Data Managers Office Hours	<a href="#">September 28 at 10 a.m.</a>
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	<a href="#">September 28 at 12 p.m.</a>
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	<a href="#">September 28 at 3 p.m.</a>
<a href="#">Assessment and Accountability Office Hours</a>	<a href="#">September 28 at 3:45</a>
<a href="#">Career and College Readiness Office Hours</a>	<a href="#">October 7 at 3 p.m.</a>
Education Technology Office Hours	<a href="#">October 14 at 9 a.m.</a>
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	<a href="#">September 21 at 3:45 p.m.</a>
<a href="#">Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call</a>	<a href="#">September 22 at 1 p.m.</a>
Education Technology Monthly Call	<a href="#">September 23 at 9 a.m.</a>
System Leaders Roundtable*	<a href="#">September 24 at 9 a.m.</a>
System Leaders Monthly Call	<a href="#">October 1 at 9 a.m.</a>
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	<a href="#">October 5 at 1 p.m.</a>
Literacy Monthly Call	<a href="#">October 7 at 10 a.m.</a>
Teaching and Learning Roundtable	<a href="#">October 8 at 11 a.m.</a>

Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	<a href="#">October 13 at 11 a.m.</a>
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	<a href="#">October 13 at 3 p.m.</a>
SPED Leader Monthly Call	<a href="#">October 14 at 2 p.m.</a>
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	<a href="#">October 18 at 10 a.m.</a>
Nonpublic Monthly Call	<a href="#">October 20 at 2 p.m.</a>
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	<a href="#">October 21 at 10 a.m.</a>
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	<a href="#">October 21 at 3 p.m.</a>
<i>*Monthly call presentations are available in the <a href="#">School Improvement Library</a>. View the <a href="#">School System Support Calendar</a> to access a complete schedule of events.</i>	
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	
<b>Event Title</b>	<b>Zoom Link</b>
<a href="#">Pre-Educator Pathway Teacher Leader Check-In</a>	<a href="#">September 24 at 4 p.m.</a>
<a href="#">Developing and Enhancing School EOPs Virtual Training</a>	<a href="#">September 27 at 11 a.m.</a>
<a href="#">Risk Assessment for K-12 Schools: Building a School Profile Virtual Training</a>	<a href="#">September 28 at 11 a.m.</a>
<a href="#">Principal Webinar Series</a>	<a href="#">September 28 at 2 p.m.</a>
<a href="#">Emergency Operations Functional Planning for Schools Virtual Training</a>	<a href="#">September 29 at 11 a.m.</a>
<a href="#">Mentor and Resident Funding Office Hours</a>	<a href="#">October 6 at 11 a.m.&amp; October 7 at 2 p.m.</a>
<b>Important Deadlines</b>	
<a href="#">Teacher and Principal of the Year Nominations Portal Closes</a>	September 28
<a href="#">Academic Recovery and Acceleration Plan Submission</a>	September 30
<a href="#">Achieve! Formula Budgets in eGMS</a>	September 30
<a href="#">Annual Financial Report (AFR) Submission</a>	September 30

<a href="#">Annual Adopted Budget Submission</a>	September 30
<a href="#">Achieve! Incentive Round 1</a>	October 7
<a href="#">Recruitment and Retention Fellowship Application Due</a>	October 8
<a href="#">School Plan Family Engagement Survey</a>	December 1

\*Please note, the [System Leaders Roundtable](#) was rescheduled from September 17th to this Friday, September 24 at 9 a.m. We apologize for the miscommunication and any inconvenience this may have caused with your attendance on the call last week.

Due to Hurricane Ida, the following deadlines have been extended.

<b>EXTENDED DEADLINES</b>		
<b>Due</b>	<b>Previous Deadline</b>	<b>Extended Deadline</b>
<a href="#"><u>Supplemental Course Allocation Reporting</u></a>	September 13	October 1
<a href="#"><u>Teacher and Principal of the Year Nominations</u></a>	September 28	October 8

## Operations

### Emergency Preparedness and Recovery

#### **Disaster Mental Health Resources**

During these challenging times, it is important to take care of each other and prioritize our mental health and wellbeing. We are sharing a free service to support the mental health and wellbeing of the community. Care Solace is extending their mental health and substance use treatment navigation services free of charge until December 31, 2021. If you or a family member are looking for help with mental health or substance use, Care Solace can help find treatment options matched to your needs regardless of the circumstance. Care Solace's team is available 24/7 and can support in any language. Please contact 888-515-0595 or [www.caresolace.com/idareleif](http://www.caresolace.com/idareleif) for help finding a provider. Please note, this service is an optional resource available by choice and is not mandatory to use. Care Solace is not an emergency response service or mental health services provider. In the event of a life threatening emergency, please call 9-1-1 or the National Suicide Hotline 1-800-273-8255.

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

### Federal Support and Grantee Relations

#### **Parent and Family Engagement District Coordinators Webinar**

**A Parent and Family Engagement District Coordinator Webinar will be held on Wednesday, September 29 from 10 - 11:30 a.m.** There will be information shared on the new Birth-12 Be Engaged Framework, Results of the Spring Parent and Family Engagement Survey, PimsPoints Launch and dates for the October Regional Trainings. Please plan to attend.

Zoom Meeting Information:

**Date and Time:** September 29 at 10 a.m.

**Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97020142055?pwd=RkZuR09nSVZaTEhGVIRIS09DK2Rjdz09>

**Meeting ID:** 970 2014 2055

**Passcode:** 835030

**Call In Numbers:** 1-470-250-9358 or 1-470-381-2552

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

## Nutrition Support

### **2021 National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grants**

USDA has awarded Louisiana \$604,377, provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, to be distributed to School Food Authorities (SFA's) participating in the NSLP to purchase equipment to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and to help support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the School Breakfast Program. Only those entities that participate in the NSLP will have access to the online grant application for these funds. Schools approved for participation in the NSLP that participate(d) in Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and/or the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) as part of COVID-19 flexibilities are eligible to apply for the grant opportunity. Priority will be given to schools where the greatest percentage of enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Applicants may access the [2021 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants](#) document for additional information. Online applications will be accessible at the [Child Nutrition Programs Website](#). A School Food Service (SFS) memo will be forthcoming to inform SFA's of dates for the open application period. Please contact [childnutritionprograms@la.gov](mailto:childnutritionprograms@la.gov) with questions.

## Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

### LEAP ELA Guidebooks and Wit and Wisdom Assessments

- Window 1 and 2 have been adjusted to allow for additional instructional time that was interrupted by Hurricane Ida. The assessment calendar will be updated to reflect the windows shown below:
  - Window 1: October 18-November 5
  - Window 2: January 24-February 11
- September 22: Administration webinar at 1 p.m.
  - Join Zoom Meeting
  - <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91711231548>
  - Meeting ID: 917 1123 1548
  - One tap mobile
  - +13126266799,,91711231548# US (Chicago)
  - +14702509358,,91711231548# US (Atlanta)

### LEAP 2025

- September 7-October 1: School systems need to indicate their selection for one of two LEAP fall high school administration windows in DRC INSIGHT as part of enrollment verification. School systems may only participate in one window. School systems that do not select a window in DRC INSIGHT will be placed in Window B as shown below. All makeup testing must be completed during the selected window.
  - Window A: November 30-December 17
  - Window B: January 5-24
- October 1-31: School systems will verify grade 3-8 enrollment and indicate their selection of paper-based or computer-based testing for grade 3 in the Enrollment function of DRC INSIGHT. There is no paper-based testing option for grade 4 in spring 2022. Paper tests will remain available in grades other than 3 as a unique accommodation that will require department approval.
- October 25: Window A (November 30-December 17) high school testing schedules due to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).
- October 31: All testing accommodations are recorded on IEP, IAP or EL checklist for Window A (November 30-December 17)

### ELPS/ELPT

- Students who may be newly identified as English learners should be screened as early as possible.
- As a result of Cambium's system rollover for the 2021-2022 administration, all students have been deleted from TIDE. Students who have been previously tested will have records in **Reporting**. To determine if data is available for a student, users should enter the student's LASID in the search box at the upper right-hand corner of the screen. One of two messages provides users with next steps.

- **"Student not active"** indicates that the student has data stored in the reporting system. To retrieve the data, enter the student's demographic information into TIDE, then search for the records in Reporting. Users will have access to all prior records for the student.
- **"TIDE does not have a student with ID #####"** indicates that the student has never been added to TIDE and has not participated in ELPS or ELPT. If documentation indicates that screening is the appropriate action, users will need to enter the student's demographic information into TIDE before administering the screener.

Please contact [bridget.harris@la.gov](mailto:bridget.harris@la.gov) for assistance or additional information.

## **ACT**

- September 13-January 7: Request initial ACT approved accommodations in TAA
- [State Testing FAQs](#) is now available
- ACT Customer Care
  - Phone – 800-553-6244 ext. 2800 for standard time and ext. 1788 for accommodations and supports
- September 30: ACT MOUs for 2021-2022 are now available in the [Assessment Library](#) and should be completed and returned. School systems that have closed due to the hurricane should contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) to request additional time.

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

## **WorkKeys**

- The WorkKeys state realms will open for testing on October 6 and remain available through April 29. The assessment calendar has been updated to reflect the dates.
  - The first accommodated testing window is outlined below:
  - Testing Window 1/Initial Testing: October 6-18
  - Testing Window 2/Makeup Testing: November 3-9

## **Data Certification**

- LEAP progress rosters will be available in La Data Review as downloadable roster files no later than Friday, September 24. Jennifer Baird will issue an announcement in La Data Review when the rosters are posted.
- Assessment rosters were released in La Data Review on Friday, September 10. The final date is tentatively set for October 1, but the department is committed to working with districts severely impacted by the hurricane who may need additional time.
  - The virtual field codes are as follows:
    - 1=100% Virtual Learning
    - 2=Half or more, but less than 100%, academic year virtual learning
    - 3=Less than half, but more than 0%, academic virtual learning
    - Blank=100% in person
  - ELPT progress rosters are now posted to La Data Review as downloadable roster files.

- LEAP progress index rosters will be available within the data certification window and an anticipated date will be communicated to DTCs and accountability contacts as soon as VAM is completed.

## **NAEP**

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) will proceed with administration of the mandated mathematics and reading assessments. For 2022, at the state level, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) will be administered in mathematics and reading at grades 4 and 8. The NAEP 2022 school sample will represent the 2022 student population while also maximizing overlap with the NAEP 2021 school sample. Maximizing the overlapping school samples between NAEP 2022 and 2021 opens up the possibility of studying student performance, as measured by NAEP, within the unique context provided by the two NAEP studies that were administered in the 2020–2021 school year.

- The NAEP 2022 administration will include three assessment programs:
  - **January 10 to March 18, 2022:** National long-term trend mathematics and reading assessments: age 9
  - **January 24 to March 4, 2022:**
    - State-level mathematics and reading assessments: grades 4 and 8
    - National civics and U.S. history assessments: grade 8
- Superintendents of selected school systems will receive a letter through email in September.
  - School systems will play an important role by supporting participation.
  - NAEP will continue to adapt to new processes and procedures as the situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve.
  - As in previous years, NAEP representatives will provide significant support to schools by administering the assessment and bringing all necessary materials and equipment, including sanitized tablets, on which students take the assessment.
  - NAEP representatives' top priority is to protect the health and safety of students and school staff.

## **Assessment and Accountability Office Hours**

- The next Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 3:45 p.m. See information below to join:
  - **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
  - **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
  - **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164

## Career and College Readiness

### **Louisiana ACT® Now**

**Please share with district administrators and testing coordinators.**

The Louisiana ACT® Now initiative program provides funding to purchase prebilled registration ACT® test vouchers for eligible students in grades 12 and 10 as described in this application. This will expand opportunities for students to take the exam to assist them with reaching their educational goals.

- To receive funding for vouchers, school systems shall submit a [planning template](#), provided by LDOE, that includes specific programmatic, physical and accountability assurances no later than **March 1, 2022**.
- Vouchers should be used for **any national test date for the Spring or Summer of 2022**.
- The cost of vouchers for ACT® without writing is **\$60.00 per student**. Students who are using a voucher to test must meet the registration deadline. Any late registration fees imposed on a student will be the responsibility of the student's family.
- School systems should order the ACT vouchers utilizing the ACT website and following the directions as laid out in the [ACT Now Information Packet](#).

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

### **Louisiana Pre-ACT® Now**

**Please share with district administrators and testing coordinators.**

The Louisiana Pre-ACT® Now program provides funding to school systems to administer an optional Pre-ACT® exam to 9th grade students. The Pre-ACT® is a short, multiple choice test that mimics the ACT assessment in subject matter and in timing structure. The Pre-ACT® provides students, school systems and parents with academic and career indicators, along with an ACT score prediction that can assist in helping students make academic decisions and gain admittance into Dual Enrollment programs. The [cost of administering the Pre-ACT exam is \\$16.00 per student](#). All exams must be administered at the school site between the dates of **June 1, 2021- September 1, 2022**.

More information, including an application will be available next month.

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

### **Pre-AP Framework Webinar**

**Please share with secondary counselors, secondary curriculum supervisors and district staff.**

The Department and College Board will hold a webinar for school systems interested in implementing the Pre-AP Framework in their school system next year. The webinar will be held on Tuesday, September 29 at 1 p.m. The webinar will include information on benefits, costs and a panel discussion with Bossier

Parish School system to discuss their experience with piloting the Pre-AP Framework.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Tuesday, September 29 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar link:** <https://collegeboard.zoom.us/j/95895951174>
- **Webinar Phone number:** 1 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID:** 958 9595 1174
- **Passcode:** 5a6SsJbRL9

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

### **AP Exam Ordering Deadlines**

**Please share with AP coordinators, testing coordinators and counselors.**

AP Coordinators should prepare AP Exam orders to submit through [AP Registration and Ordering](#) by these deadlines:

- **October 4:** Preferred ordering deadline.
- **November 15** (by 11:59 p.m. ET): Final ordering deadline. This is the deadline to submit exam orders for all full-year and first-semester AP courses, and exam only sections. The late order fee applies for exams ordered after this date.
- Please consult the [AP Coordinator Manual \(Part 1\)](#) for details on submitting registration.

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

### **AP Louisiana Counselor Workshop**

**Please share with secondary counselors.**

Join College Board staff from around the country on October 1 at 9 a.m. for this free, state-focused, 90-minute workshop. The presentation will provide helpful updates on College Board programs and higher education trends, so counselors will be ready to support students and their families for the 2021-22 school year.

Registration information is found on the [AP Professional Learning Page](#).

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

## School System Financial Services

### **New: Accountability for Weighted Student Funds in the MFP**

**Please share with business managers.**

R.S. 17:7(2)(f)(i) provides for the accountability of weighted student funds included in the MFP. Funds generated in the MFP formula by applying the weighted factors for low income and English language learner (also known as Economically Disadvantaged) students, career and technical education course units, special education students (other than gifted and talented), and gifted and talented students are considered weighted student funds. School systems or schools are required to expend the weighted student funds on personnel, professional services, instructional materials, equipment, and supplies that serve the unique needs of students who generate such funds.

Please reference the FY2021-2022 Weighted Student Funding AFR Reporting Details and Calculation in the [MFP Library](#) under the 2021-2022 MFP BUDGET LETTER section for additional information.

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

### **New: USDA Required School Lunch Match**

**Please share with all business managers and financial officials.**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires a match of state funds for the school lunch program. The match must be evidenced through the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) funds in each school system's Annual Financial Report (AFR).

A memorandum that contains the required match amount for each school system in FY2021-2022 is available in the [MFP Library](#) under the USDA REQUIRED SCHOOL LUNCH MATCH section.

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

### **FY 2021-2022 Annual Adopted Budget and General Fund Budget Submission**

**Please share with business managers and financial officials of city/parish public school systems.**

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 [FY2021-2022 Adopted Annual Budget Memo](#) and [FY2021-2022 Adopted Budget Submission Instructions](#) provide guidance, documents to be completed and additional resources.

Please contact [schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov) or call School System Financial Services at (225) 342-3617 with questions.

## **FY 2020-2021 Annual Financial Report (AFR) Collection Timelines**

**Please share with your business managers and financial officials.**

Louisiana R.S. 17:92 requires that local school systems and schools provide financial data to the Department no later than September 30<sup>th</sup> each year. The LEADS Portal is now open for submission of your financial data. The AFR documents that are needed to assist you in the submission of your data can be found at <https://leads13.doe.louisiana.gov/lug/AFR/AFR.htm>

Please contact [staudit@la.gov](mailto:staudit@la.gov) with questions concerning the preparation of the financial information or account classification and contact [SystemSupport@la.gov](mailto:SystemSupport@la.gov) with questions regarding the electronic submission or online update process.

## Teaching and Learning

### Assessment Content

#### **ACT Alignment Study**

The School of Education at LSU, in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Education, will conduct a study to determine the degree of alignment of the ACT assessment with Louisiana's Student Standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. A panel of 45 Louisiana educators will be recruited to participate as expert panelists for this study. Panelists should be extremely knowledgeable in one of three content areas: Mathematics, English Language Arts, or Science. The participants selected for this study will be asked to participate in a 3-day virtual meeting in which they will review and score the ACT for its level of alignment with the Louisiana Student Standards. The meetings will occur on October 28, 29, and 30.

School systems will be reimbursed for participants who require substitutes. A stipend of \$350.00 will be paid to each panelist for meeting on Saturday, October 30, 2021. To be considered, panelists must commit to being present at all three meetings.

If you are interested in applying, please complete the [survey](#) by September 17, 2021. Applicants will be informed of selection as a participant or alternate after superintendent approval is secured.

Please contact [Alissa Kilpatrick](#) at the Louisiana Department of Education or [Eugene Kennedy](#) at Louisiana State University with questions about this study.

### Division of Diverse Learners

#### **April Dunn Act Office Hours**

The Department will begin hosting monthly office hours to support school systems with effective implementation of the April Dunn Act. The first session will be held September 27 at 4:30 p.m. Beginning in October, sessions will be held on the second Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m. School systems can submit questions or topics to be discussed during office hours to [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov).

Webinar date and time: September 27 at 4:30 p.m.

Webinar link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98727992232>

Meeting ID: 987 2799 2232

Phone number: 1-312-626-6799

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

## **2021 Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities Awards & Inclusive Art Contest**

The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs is continuing its tradition of hosting both the Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities (GOLD) Awards and the Inclusive Art Contest.

The GOLD Awards recognizes extraordinary individuals and organizations who have contributed their time and talents to benefit the lives of persons with disabilities in Louisiana. Multiple award [categories](#) are included. [Nominations](#) are due by November 1, 2021.

The [Inclusive Art Contest](#) enables participants to increase awareness of the importance of inclusion in today's society through visual and written artistic expression. Entries should illustrate or describe ideas related to this year's theme: "Accessibility of the Future." The contest is open to any resident of Louisiana, with and without disabilities of any age. Entries must be received by November 1, 2021.

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

## **Louisiana Accessible Education Materials Center's Annual Click or Treat Conference**

The [Louisiana Accessible Educational Materials \(LA-AEM\) Center](#) is hosting its 3rd annual virtual Click or Treat Conference October 26-28. Conference information and registration can be found at this [link](#). Each day has a different focus area:

- Tuesday - Assistive Technology
- Wednesday - Vision
- Thursday - Deaf/Hard of Hearing

Please contact [administrator@ssdla-aem.org](mailto:administrator@ssdla-aem.org) with questions.

## **Educator Development**

### **Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: Episode 9 Released**

[Teacher Leader Lagniappe](#) offers a little something extra for Louisiana educators. As educators, we are leaders - leaders of our families, classrooms, schools, teams, and systems. Host Em Cooper shares inspiring stories from leaders in Louisiana and across the country. You'll hear from innovators, change agents, and experts that will empower you to grow in your profession. Educators can subscribe to the [podcast](#) and listen to the latest episode.

**Episode 9 Summary** - School Culture and Climate with Dr. Erin Stokes: Dr. Erin Stokes shares how climate and culture are crucial in school transformation. She shares how she built trust, buy-in, shared vision and values, and an environment of love and support for students, families, and staff at Pineville Elementary in Rapides Parish Schools. Monroe City Schools made Em Cooper smile this week with their meaningful back-to-school activities.

**Share Your Stories:** Educators can submit [pictures](#) of the great things happening in your school and system for our What's Making Me Smile segment.

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

## **Principal Webinar Series**

The September webinar has been rescheduled to September 28. In this webinar the Department will highlight our 2022 State Principal of the Year, Marco French, and Division Level Honorees Ronnie Harvey, Karen Robertson, and Jeremy Muse. These principals will take part in a panel discussion focusing on strong back to school practices.

- Webinar Date/Time: September 28 at 2 p.m.
- Webinar Link:  
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94171949379?pwd=b3d3SVRHc25zL3RWdzlyNy9Pb3BYQT09>
- Meeting ID: 941 7194 9379
- Passcode: 216254

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

## **Recruitment and Retention Fellowship**

Several school systems have the opportunity to participate in a recruitment and retention fellowship through a national non-profit organization, [USHCA](#). This fellowship will be an opportunity for human capital leaders to:

- Network with other human capital leaders throughout the nation, learn from one another, and discuss best practices with regard to recruiting and retaining teachers
- Work with a small cohort of Louisiana school systems to develop strategies to recruit and retain teachers in Louisiana's highest-need certification areas, with a particular focus on advanced math and science courses

Please complete this short [application](#) to indicate your interest and key recruitment challenges your school would like to tackle through this fellowship. Application is due on **October 8th**. Fellowship participants will be announced the following week. The first session will be held during the last week in October.

Please reach out to [victoria.dunn@la.gov](mailto:victoria.dunn@la.gov) for more information.

## **Pre- Educator Pathway Teacher Leader Check-in**

In the 2021-2022 school year, Pre-Educator Pathway work and courses will be happening in over a quarter of school systems across the state. In order to continue to develop this current work and to ensure that every high school student in the state of Louisiana has access to the Pre-Educator Pathway, the Department will [continue to provide support](#) throughout the school year.

All teachers teaching a pre-educator pathway course in the 2021-2022 school year are encouraged to attend this webinar to learn and share best practices with one another. During this call, the participants will strategize to ensure students are successful in their first experiences toward becoming a certified Louisiana teacher.

**Webinar Date/Time:** Monday, September 24 at 4 p.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3455048179>

**Meeting ID:** 345 504 8179

**Phone Number:**1-470-381-2552

### **Mentor and Resident Funding Office Hours**

The Department continues to provide \$1,000 for the mentors who support year-long undergraduate residents. In addition, through the teacher pay increase approved by the Legislature in 2019, the Department will allocate funds for school systems to pay \$1,000 to yearlong undergraduate residents who hold a resident certificate and are completing their residency in a public school.

On October 6 and 7, the Department will host office hours to support school systems with the data collection and verification process.

**Webinar date and time:** October 6 at 11 a.m. or October 7 at 2 p.m.

**Webinar link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3455048179>

**Meeting ID:** 345 504 8179

**Phone number:** 1-470-381-2552

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

### **Accelerate**

[Accelerate](#), Louisiana's pre-K-12 tutoring strategy, is designed for school systems to implement equal-access tutoring at scale in order to achieve significant results for all students. School system and school leaders should be planning implementation of Accelerate in their schools for the 2021-2022 school year. Resources and trainings are available in the [Accelerate Library](#).

Educators may access the recent Accelerate Overview and ELA 2021-2022 Resources Overview trainings using the following links:

[Accelerate Overview \(August 25, 2021\)](#)

[Accelerate ELA 2021-2022 Resources Overview](#)

[Accelerate ELA 2021-2022 Resources Overview Recording](#)

Due to Hurricane Ida the Accelerate Math Resources Overview webinar was postponed.

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

### **Acceleration Professional Development**

The recent weather event has further disrupted the education of students throughout Louisiana. As school systems continue with instruction, they must address the unfinished learning their students experienced as a result of the pandemic, as well as Hurricane Ida. As part of our work to provide continuous guidance and support to our educators, we will continue to offer professional development to school systems as they work to address unfinished learning through acceleration.

All teachers have access to the 2021-2022 [Louisiana Acceleration Series](#) to support their efforts to accelerate learning. The [Louisiana Acceleration Series](#) includes 6 trainings that are designed to help educators target their instruction and coaching on the most effective strategies.

These trainings will be provided by the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET). All teachers, teacher leaders, school leaders, and district leaders are invited to attend these focused learning

opportunities. Each training is a full day and the sessions will be offered virtually and in-person several times a week over the course of the 2021-2022 school year.

Educators may use this [link](#) to register for one or all of the first three sessions. Registration for the other sessions will open later this month.

September 13 - October 5	Analyzing and Using Data to Meet the Needs of Students
October 11 - November 11	Maximizing Collaborative Structures to Support Acceleration
November 10 - December 16	Planning for Accelerated Learning Options and Individualized Learning
December 15 - January 13	Strengthening Content-Specific Strategies for Acceleration in Math
January 10 - January 31	Strengthening Content-Specific Strategies for Acceleration in ELA
January 31 - March 10	Setting-up Effective Summer Learning Opportunities

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

### **Staffing and Scheduling Initiative**

School systems may need to make staffing and scheduling adjustments to accommodate for the unfinished learning that resulted from Hurricane Ida school closures.

The Staffing and Scheduling initiative launched in March provides system and school leaders robust [guidance](#) and implementation support on developing strong staffing and scheduling models aligned to the best practices below. School schedules should look different in the 2021-2022 school year in order to address unfinished learning.

1. High-quality core instruction is the foundation.
2. Effective literacy instruction is central to student success.
3. Students with unfinished learning and diverse learners need extra instructional time to catch up.
4. Both core instruction and acceleration must be provided by content strong staff.
5. Meeting the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of students supports academic achievement.
6. Equity should be at the forefront of all these strategies.

To culminate the second round of [staffing and scheduling supports](#), system and school leaders are encouraged to attend the Staffing and Scheduling Q&A session on September 29, 2021 and October 6, 2021 at 1 p.m. Participants may register using this [link](#).

The final round in the series of [staffing and scheduling supports](#) will continue this fall. Participants must register to attend.

<b>Webinar</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Link</b>
Staffing and Scheduling Q&A Session	October 6 at 1 p.m.	<a href="#">Registration Link</a>
Best Practice Webinar	October 13 at 1 p.m.	<a href="#">Registration Link</a>
Job Alike Support Session for District Leaders	October 19 at 11 a.m.	<a href="#">Registration Link</a>
Job Alike Support Session for Diverse Learner Leaders	October 19 at 1 p.m.	<a href="#">Registration Link</a>
Job Alike Support Session for Counselors and Counseling Leadership	October 20 at 11 a.m.	<a href="#">Registration Link</a>
Job Alike Support Session for School Leaders	October 20 at 1 p.m.	<a href="#">Registration Link</a>

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

## Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunities

### Portfolio Opportunities

#### **Update on Approved Home Study and Non-public Schools Not Seeking State Approval Applications**

The LDOE has received a higher than normal volume of applications for approval of home study programs and non-public schools not seeking state approval and is working diligently to process all applications as soon as possible. The LDOE will be providing school systems with an interim report of all approved home study applications and the number of pending applications within the next week. Thank you for your patience as we continue working through these approval processes.

Please see the guidance below regarding student withdrawal documentation.

Please contact [Sue Millican](#) or [Kristine Barker](#) with questions.

#### **Participation in Approved Home Study Programs**

R.S. 17:236.1 allows parents/guardians to seek approval from BESE (through the LDOE as the administering agency) to educate their child through a home study program. Guardians are required to seek initial state approval for the given home study program within 15 days of commencement. As such, students may be educated in the home study prior to receiving any documentation from the Department. As such, when a parent or guardian seeks to withdraw their child from a public school for the purpose of transferring to an approved home study program, it is possible that the parent may not have yet received state approval.

As required, the LDOE will notify the local superintendent(s) within whose jurisdiction an approved home study program is operating. The Department provides this notification on a quarterly basis. A parent or guardian is not required to produce any documentation that he or she has already applied for a home study program in order to withdraw his or her child from a public school.

#### **Enrollment in Non-Public Schools Not Seeking State Approval**

Per R.S. 17:236, if a non-public school receives no local, state, or federal funds or support, directly or indirectly, instructional staff members shall meet requirements as may be prescribed by the school or church. Any such school shall operate a minimum session of not less than one hundred eighty days and shall report to the LDOE its total attendance as of the thirtieth day of the school's term or session.

For this reason, when a parent or guardian withdraws his or her child from a public school for the purpose of transferring him/her to a non-public school that does not wish to seek state approval, no documentation is provided to the parent or guardian. In the past, non-public schools *not seeking state approval* have been *permitted* to register with the LDOE, but were not required to do so. It is important to note that registration and documentation of such does not serve as approval, endorsement or certification of the educational program, the school's compliance with state laws (such as the definition of a school pursuant to R.S. 17:236) or the parent or guardians compliance with compulsory attendance laws (R.S. 17:221).

Any non-public school not seeking state approval has ten days to provide notice of enrollment in the nonpublic school not seeking state approval to the school from which the student has withdrawn.

In summary, there is no documentation that a parent or legal guardian must provide in order to withdraw a child from school. However, as required by law, the LDOE will notify the local superintendent when a home study application has been received and when any subsequent action is taken on the application.

## Reminders

- **Operations**
  - *Emergency Preparedness and Recovery*
  - *Federal Support and Grantee Relations*
  - *School System Planning*
- **Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics**
- **Career and College Readiness**
- **School System Financial Services**
- **School System Relations**
- **Teaching and Learning**
  - *Academic Content*
  - *Educator Development*
  - *Literacy*

## **Operations**

### **Emergency Preparedness and Recovery**

#### **Disaster Recovery Guidance**

LDOE has updated the [Hurricane Ida Disaster Recovery Guidance](#) document to assist school systems and system leaders in the assessment and recovery of schools after the event. An [Appendix](#) has been added to the guidance to provide further guidance on specific questions and timelines. System leaders should contact [systemrelations@la.gov](mailto:systemrelations@la.gov) or [Trey.Folse@la.gov](mailto:Trey.Folse@la.gov) with any specific questions on the guidance document.

#### **Grants to States for School Emergency Management Program**

LSU NCBRT/ACE and the Louisiana Department of Education offer free virtual training to K-12 schools in Louisiana through the [Grants to States for School Emergency Management \(GSEM\) Program](#).

#### **Developing and Enhancing School EOPs Virtual Training (4 hours)**

This 4-hour virtual training walks participants through FEMA's best practices for school emergency planning. Key concepts include the 6-step collaborative planning process, the whole community approach to emergency management, and the format and structure of a comprehensive all-hazard emergency operations plan (EOP).

[Register](#) for September 27, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

#### **Risk Assessment for K-12 Schools: Building a School Profile (4 hours)**

This training explores how a school profile and risk assessment are used to direct the development and maintenance of a comprehensive school emergency operations plan (EOP). Attendees will identify and prioritize threats and hazards of concern to their school sites.

[Register](#) for September 28, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

#### **Emergency Operations Functional Planning for Schools (4 hours)**

This virtual workshop introduces a process for addressing critical emergency functions within a school's emergency operations plan (EOP). Participants will define EOP functional annexes and identify emergency functions relevant to their schools. Additionally, participants will identify the roles, responsibilities, and courses of action required to perform a given function at their school site.

[Register](#) for September 29, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

## Federal Support and Grantee Relations

### **LEA/Charters: 2021-22 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application**

To assist school systems in preparing for the upcoming release of the 2021-2022 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) application, the Division of Grants Management hosted two (2) Zoom meetings on Tuesday, September 21. The morning session began at **10:30 a.m.** and the afternoon session began at **2:30 p.m.** The meeting information included provides access to both the morning and afternoon sessions.

#### **Zoom Meeting Information:**

##### **Morning Session**

**Date and Time:** September 21 at 10:30 a.m.

**Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93628215039?pwd=Mng3NmFWK0JlcWFySE1aUGlaVXJRZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 936 2821 5039

**Passcode:** 631022

**Call In Numbers:** 1-312-626-6799 OR 1-470-250-9358

##### **Afternoon Session**

**Date and Time:** September 21 at 2:30 p.m.

**Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94081114961?pwd=MjN5cVNrK3YvVFJMMHQva0Q5TEFYQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 940 8111 4961

**Passcode:** 263013

**Call In Numbers:** 1-470-250-9358 OR 1-470-381-2552

### **Title III Consortiums**

[Title III Consortiums](#) are a great strategy for school systems with low EL enrollment to work with other school systems to combine resources and best practices.

If you are interested in joining or forming a Title III Consortium, visit the [Federal Support and Grantee Relations Library](#) to review the Title III Consortium Handbook and to access required forms.

LDOE will hold a Title III Consortium Informational webinar on Friday, September 24 from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. [Registration](#) is required to attend the webinar.

Please contact [alice.garcia@la.gov](mailto:alice.garcia@la.gov) with questions about Title III Consortiums or anything else related to EL program.

## School System Planning

### **School System Planning Launch**

On September 10, LDOE released the [2022-2023 School System Planning Guide](#) and associated planning resources to support the completion of the Achieve! Incentive applications and Super App. The launch presentation Zoom recording, as well as all planning resources, can be found in the [School Improvement Library](#).

During September, October, November, December, and January, regularly scheduled team monthly calls and office hours will provide opportunities for school system leaders to learn more about specific sections, ask questions, and receive guidance. The first School System Planning Office hours were scheduled for this past Friday, September 17th at 10 a.m.

Please contact [ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov) with questions and put School System Planning in the subject line.

### **Academic Recovery and Acceleration Plan**

Last week, the Department hosted four informational sessions for school systems and created a [form for question submission](#). This week, an FAQ document will be released in the Pandemic Relief Funding and Guidance Library. School systems should continue to submit their questions using the form.

The Department will also offer one-on-one support office hours as requested. That form will be available in the Pandemic Relief Funding and Guidance Library by the end of this week. As a reminder, plans are due by September 30, however, the Department is putting in place a review and support structure to allow school systems the opportunity to revise their plans based on feedback from reviewers.

Please contact [ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov) with questions and put School System Planning in the subject line.

## ***Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics***

### **Request to Waive Accountability Reporting for 2020-2021**

- The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is seeking public comment on the state’s proposed 2020-2021 school year accountability waiver from the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
  - Due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19, the United States Department of Education is allowing states flexibility to pause federal accountability for the 2020-2021 academic year. Consequently, LDOE is seeking a waiver because of the catastrophic interruptions to traditional education methods and strategies that have harmfully impacted academic outcomes and achievement, as evidenced by the spring 2021 results from the Louisiana Education Assessment Program (LEAP 2025).
  - As part of the waiver request, LDOE proposes to freeze the current ESSA designations assigned to struggling schools in 2019 for the 2020-2021 school year. For example, systems with schools that are currently identified as “Comprehensive Intervention Required” or “Urgent Intervention Required or Needed” would continue with these designations from the prior year. Furthermore, there would be no additional “Comprehensive Intervention Required” or “Urgent Intervention Required or Needed” labels assigned to schools in 2021-2022 based on the results from the 2020-2021 school year.
  - At this time, 46 states (including the District of Columbia) have received a waiver for accountability from the United States Department of Education.
- The deadline for public comment was September 14, 2021.
- Please send any comments to [accountability@la.gov](mailto:accountability@la.gov).
- For questions about the waiver, please contact [jennifer.baird@la.gov](mailto:jennifer.baird@la.gov).

### **KEA and K-3 Literacy Screening**

- For school systems that have had closures due to the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, closed days do not have to be included in the first 30-day count. The department will work with affected school systems to determine if the reporting date of October 15 will need to be adjusted.
- KEA and K-3 screening in the fall will remain the same as in the prior year. The options are below:
  - KEA administration: DRDP-K or GOLD-KEA
  - K-3 literacy: Acadience Reading, DIBELS 8th, STEP, and STEEP

## ***Career and College Readiness***

### **Rescheduled - NCCER Updates for Craft Instructors Webinar**

**Please share with counselors, NCCER instructors, and CTE supervisors**

A back to school webinar has been scheduled to discuss information relevant to NCCER updates for craft instructors for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. This webinar will include information on Accredited Training and Education Facility Management, requirements for credentialing trainees, craft instructor training and NCCER reminders.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Sept. 23 at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94042983500>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1-312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 940 4298 3500

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

### **NCCER Submission Extension**

**Please share with counselors, NCCER instructors, and CTE supervisors**

Due to outstanding submissions from craft instructors, NCCER has granted an extension to LDOE to process and approve submissions. Submissions will be accepted September 29-30 and will be processed on October 1. Late submissions after the deadline will **not** be accepted or approved.

Please make every attempt **not** to autofill dates. Modules should only be submitted for training that took place **before 8/1/2021**. Notify the sponsor representative after a submission to the registry has been made. After sponsor representative approval, the forms will go to the Registry for final approval.

If you have questions or a school that needs to be added to the submission extension, list please contact [troy.borne@la.gov](mailto:troy.borne@la.gov).

### **2021-2022 Course Choice/SCA Catalog**

**Please share with CTE Supervisors, Counselors, and School System Leaders**

Course Choice provides students and schools with access to a broad variety of course offerings from online, face-to-face, industry training and dual enrollment course providers. The [SCA Portal](#) is now open for 2021-2022 reporting.

The 2021-2022 [Course Choice Provider Directory](#) is now available. Schools register students directly with the course provider college and/or university. Please refer to the [Course Choice Registration Procedures](#) for details on this process. Once students are registered, schools should document enrollments in the Course Choice Reporting System.

The [SCA Portal](#) closes at 5 p.m. on October 1 for Private Provider fall and full year enrollments. Postsecondary enrollments should be reported by October 8 at 5 p.m. The portal will reopen for spring enrollments on November 22. Please contact [sca@la.gov](mailto:sca@la.gov) with questions.

### **Rescheduled - CWA Webinar for Directors and Supervisors**

**Please share with Child Welfare and Attendance (CWA) directors, supervisors, and attendance stakeholders.**

The previously scheduled webinar for Child Welfare and Attendance Directors and Supervisors has been rescheduled for September 22. This webinar will include information regarding themes for the year (including National Attendance Awareness Month activities), the Louisiana Attendance Alliance, and next steps to support CWAs state-wide.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Wednesday, September 22 at 8:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95389034931>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID:** 953 8903 4931

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

### **Rescheduled - 2022 Student of the Year Recognition Program Guidelines**

**Please share with Student of the Year School System coordinators, school administrators, and school counselors.**

The 2022 Student of the Year Guidelines webinar has been rescheduled for Tuesday, September 28.

Review the recently revised [Student of the Year Selection Guidelines](#) for information about the program and the [Student Application Packet for 2022](#). To participate in the program complete the [School System Information Form](#) and email it to [marian.johnson@la.gov](mailto:marian.johnson@la.gov) by October 16. The [Student Application Packet](#) should be made available to the parents of students eligible to participate in the program.

You are encouraged to join the webinar on the Student of the Year Program.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92786427342>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1-312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 927 8642 7342

Please contact [marian.johnson@la.gov](mailto:marian.johnson@la.gov) with questions or if you need an extension on the deadline.

## **Rescheduled - Gifted and Talented Coordinators' Webinar**

**Please share with Special Education Directors, Pupil Appraisal Coordinators, G/T Supervisors and G/T points of contacts for each school system.**

The webinar scheduled for gifted and talented programming has been rescheduled. The webinar will discuss the current regulations, resources and opportunities for gifted and talented programming.

Webinar information:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Wednesday, Sept. 29 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99502136906>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1- 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 995 0213 6906

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

## **Reminder: U. S. Senate Youth Scholarship Opportunity**

The Louisiana Department of Education, in partnership with the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, is offering a \$10,000 scholarship opportunity for two outstanding juniors or seniors from Louisiana who will be selected as our state delegates for the U.S. Senate Youth Washington Week, March 5-12, 2022. Delegates must attend all of the scheduled meetings that will be scheduled either in-person or virtually to receive the scholarship.

Please encourage juniors or seniors who hold elected or appointed offices in school or community groups listed in the [national program brochure](#) to submit a Louisiana [application packet](#). For test security reasons, the test secure essay topics will only be released to school systems. High school personnel should contact [marian.johnson@la.gov](mailto:marian.johnson@la.gov) as soon as a student request is made for the essay topics.

Because so many high schools have been impacted by Hurricane Ida, many students have been displaced and are unable to access the necessary resources for their portfolio. Please assist them with securing the needed recommendations, transcripts and essay topics on their behalf.

The application portfolio is due via e-mail to [marian.johnson@la.gov](mailto:marian.johnson@la.gov) by October 5. Finalists will be notified by October 27, for the final phase of selection process on November 9.

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

## ***School System Financial Services***

### **New: FY 2021-2022 Annual Adopted Budget and General Fund Budget Submission**

**Please share with business managers and financial officials of city/parish public school systems.**

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 [FY 2021-2022 Adopted Annual Budget Memo](#) and [FY2021-2022 Adopted Budget Submission Instructions](#) provide guidance, documents to be completed and additional resources.

Please contact [schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov) or call School System Financial Services at (225) 342-3617 with questions.

### **New: FY 2020-2021 Annual Financial Report (AFR) Collection Timelines**

**Please share with your business managers and financial officials.**

Louisiana R.S. 17:92 requires that local school systems and schools provide financial data to the Department no later than September 30<sup>th</sup> each year. The LEADS Portal is now open for submission of your financial data. The AFR documents that are needed to assist you in the submission of your data can be found at <https://leads13.doe.louisiana.gov/lug/AFR/AFR.htm>

Please contact [staudit@la.gov](mailto:staudit@la.gov) with questions concerning the preparation of the financial information or account classification and contact [SystemService@la.gov](mailto:SystemService@la.gov) with questions regarding the electronic submission or online update process.

## ***School System Relations***

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

#### **Please forward to 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.

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 and the deadline has been extended to **October 8**. 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 this [nomination portal link](#) with stakeholders and encourage everyone to nominate outstanding teachers and leaders, as this is a wonderful way to acknowledge and honor educators for all that they are doing. The portal may also be accessed by visiting the [Award's page](#).

In order to receive Teacher and Principal of the Year updates and information, school systems should enter their coordinator's contact information in the [Teacher and Principal of the Year Coordinator's File](#).

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

## ***Teaching and Learning***

### ***Academic Content***

#### **Social Studies Standards Review Update**

**Please share with social studies supervisors, administrators, and K-12 social studies teachers**

Louisiana's social studies standards are currently under review. The Social Studies Standards Review Steering Committee will convene in a public meeting on September 25 at 9 a.m. at the Claiborne building in Baton Rouge. An agenda for this meeting along with a copy of the revised draft standards will be posted by September 20. Access the latest working draft of the standards as well as materials from prior steering committee meetings in the [Standards Review Committee Library](#). All stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on individual standards using an online form during the month of October. The form will be available in the [Standards Review Committee Library](#) on October 1.

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

### ***Educator Development***

#### **Compass Evaluations**

Standards of effectiveness for evaluations will return to those outlined in Bulletin 130 for the 2021-2022 School Year. A 2021-2022 CIS timeline can be found in the Library. The rater reliability training will be available in the [Compass library](#) after Labor Day. Components of Evaluation Scores:

- Professional Practice
  - 2 Observation Scores (50% of total score)
- Student Outcomes
  - Value-Added Model (VAM) + 2 Student Learning Targets (50% of total score)
  - Non-VAM teachers: SLTs = 50%, VAM teachers: SLTs = 15%, VAM = 35%

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

## **Summer Learning Program Checklist**

School systems should use the planning checklist available in the [Summer Learning Program Guidance](#).

<b>Planning Checklist: August - October</b>
Host a debriefing session to review and analyze program data collected from students, teachers, parents, and school leaders
Establish core planning team for next year
Determine Summer Learning Program goals
Create a SLP meeting schedule for the year
Begin planning your SLP

Please contact [markecia.barthelemy@la.gov](mailto:markecia.barthelemy@la.gov) with any questions.

## ***Literacy***

### **K-2 Writing Series**

A new professional development series for teachers and leaders focused on [K-2 writing](#) instruction is underway. The first session is available in the [Literacy Library](#). Sessions will be added weekly on Tuesdays. Please note that there may be a delay in this week's posting due to the impact of office closures as a result of Hurricane Ida.

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