

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



October 15, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to share that yesterday the Department [announced](#) that Louisiana has won \$115 million in competitive federal grants in the last two weeks alone. In each case, the majority of funding will directly support schools and children across the public schools of Louisiana. In future weeks and months, you will receive details regarding each grant and school system participation. Below are summaries of each award.

- **Comprehensive Literacy State Development Program Grant:** The award, which totals \$100 million over five years, will add another layer of literacy support for schools across the state that have been identified as having low academic performance overall or among certain groups of students. The grant will help schools purchase top-rated reading curricula and instructional materials, provide educators with professional development, implement interventions to support students who struggle with reading, and roll-out evidence-based literacy resources for families. Louisiana aims to serve 600 high-needs schools and early childhood education providers, 2,000 local leaders, 9,600 teachers, and 240,000 disadvantaged children by the end of the five-year grant period.
- **Improving Pre-Engineering and Computer Science Education through Micro-credentialing Grant:** The award, which totals \$4 million over four years, will develop a certification pathway for teachers to earn certifications for their expertise in STEM fields, including pre-engineering and computer science, to complement the expansion of [STEM Pathways](#), part of the state's nationally recognized [Jump Start](#) career and technical education initiative.
- **Special Education Leadership Grant:** The award, which totals \$1 million and spans five years, will establish a "Special Education Leader Fellowship." The fellowship will be a year-long, comprehensive development program for aspiring and novice special education leaders across the state. The fellowship will provide in-person training, coaching, and a community of practice that will instill the knowledge and skills the next generation of leaders needs to lead and sustain change to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. The new program will build upon the state's existing and successful fellowship programs for educators and administrators, such as the [Principal Leader Fellowship Program](#) and the [Content Leader](#) pathway.
- **Trauma Recovery Grant:** As announced last week, the award, which totals \$7.5 million and spans five years, will help Louisiana increase access to mental health services in order to boost academic performance and decrease absence and discipline rates. The initiative will build on a prior grant-funded project in which the Tulane University School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences developed a Trauma and Behavioral Health (TBH) screener for DCFS to use in identifying foster care children in need of mental health services due to trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder.
- **Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant:** As announced last week, the award, which totals \$2.5 million over five years, will fund a partnership between the Department and LSU School of Social Work to create the "Louisiana School Social Work Expansion Project," an effort to expand and strengthen the school-based mental health workforce, particularly at sites with a high number of economically disadvantaged students and with high rates of teacher turnover.

Recognition across such a wide range of projects is further validation of our state's plan for improving its education system, and of its educators' unending willingness to innovate in the service of students.

As always, thank you for all you do for our children,

John

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [LEAP Connect Sample Math Constructed-Response Tasks Webinar](#): October 16 at 3:30 p.m.
- [Teacher and Principal of the Year Coordinator's Webinar](#): October 17 at 9:30 a.m.
- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours](#): October 22 at 1:00 p.m.
- [2019 Louisiana Farm to School Conference](#): October 23 at 8:00 a.m.
- [Teacher and Principal of the Year Coordinator's Webinar](#): October 23 at 9:30 a.m.
- [Teacher and Principal of the Year Coordinator's Webinar](#): October 24 at 9:30 a.m.
- [Partnerships for Success Webinar](#): October 24 at 10:00 a.m.
- [2019 School and Center Performance Scores](#) released: November 6 at 11:00 a.m.

Important Deadlines

- [USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Application](#) deadline: October 18
- [Super App Launch Registration](#) deadline: October 21
- [Notice of Intent: Alternate Assessment Participation Waiver Request](#) deadline: October 22
- [Student Information System \(SIS\) MFP Collection](#) deadline: October 25
- [K3 Assessment Collection](#) deadline: October 25
- [Special Education Reporting \(SER\) IDEA Collection](#) deadline: October 31
- [Early Childhood Fall Checkpoint](#) deadline: October 31
- [Interests and Opportunities Online Principals Survey](#) deadline: November 1

School System Support

Reminder: Super App Launch

[Registration](#) for the Super App Launch events closes Monday, October 21. The Department will launch the 2020-2021 School System Planning process and Super App on November 4, 7, and 8 in Baton Rouge and November 12 in Ruston. Details can be found in the [Super App Launch Overview](#). School system planning teams should attend together on the same date.

Please contact districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Updated School System Planning Calendar

The [2019-2020 School System Support Calendar](#) has been updated to include the following changes that are highlighted in yellow within the calendar.

- Early Literacy Commission Meetings
- Fall Counselor Institute Dates
- Student Behavior and Discipline Meetings
- Jump Start Convention
- BESE Meetings

Please email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Resources and Events at the Louisiana Old State Capitol **Please share with high school teachers.**

Louisiana's Old State Capitol, part of the Office of Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin, has partnered with the National Park Service to host an exhibition called [Victory from Within: The American POW Experience](#) through December 20. Lesson plans adapted from National Park Service research and modified to fit into a Louisiana school curriculum are available for use now. The lesson plans include original artifacts, worksheets, and interview transcripts and can be used statewide.

Below, please find information on other related upcoming programs and initiatives:

- **November 3 from 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.:** Free showings of "*The Ghost of the Castle*" and related activities
 - Recommended Audience: All ages
- **November 13 at 5:30 p.m.:** Part One: An American Prisoner of War Experience
 - Recommended Audience: High school students and above; not for sensitive audiences
- **November 14 at 5:30 p.m.:** Part Two: Victory from Within
 - Recommended Audience: High school students and above; not for sensitive audiences

Visit [Louisiana's Old State Capitol's](#) webpage for more information on all exhibits and upcoming events, including how to book a tour. Additional materials will be added to the site over the coming weeks.

Please contact ckennedy@sos.la.gov for additional information.

Assessment and Accountability

New: Timeline for Release of 2018-2019 School and Center Performance Scores

Please share with principals.

The 2018-2019 school and center performance scores will be released on **November 6** in the [Louisiana School Finder](#). Below is a timeline for when school systems will receive data and resources related to this release:

- **Week of October 28:** School system leaders receive individual, unsuppressed school system and school-level performance scores from Network Leader and participate in briefing calls.
- **November 5:**
 - Early childhood education program “Honor Roll” results publicly released.
 - School system leaders receive statewide, school-system, and school-level suppressed results that evening.
- **November 6:**
 - School system leaders participate in briefing call with Superintendent John White on statewide results at **10:00 a.m.**
 - Superintendent White holds media briefing on statewide results and results made public in [School Finder](#) and the [website](#) at **11:00 a.m.**

Please view the [communications toolkit](#) for helpful tools in communicating these results to families.

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

Important: Interests and Opportunities Online Principals Survey

- The Online Principals Survey that will be used to award points for the new Interests and Opportunities index was distributed via **accountability contacts** on September 30. Principals will have until **November 1** to complete the survey, which is 2.5 percent of the 2020 SPS in schools with grade combinations from the K—8 range and 5 percent for high schools.
- For K—8 schools, the October Class Collection (CUR, PEP, SIS) will be used to identify the students enrolled in PE, visual art, performance art, and world language courses, which determines an additional 2.5 percent of the SPS.
- To streamline the process for superintendents’ review and approval of surveys submitted by principals, the department created an Excel file that contains links to the completed surveys. The **2019 Principal Survey Completion Report** has been posted to the secure FTP and will be updated weekly.

General

- District test coordinator and accountability announcements are only sent to contacts who are on file with the Department. Please “create a new contact” for all contacts in the [Louisiana School System Contact Form](#). **Only contacts added to this form will receive communications from the Department.**

LEAP 2025

- **October 28:** DRC INSIGHT portal opens for fall 2019 LEAP 2025 high school testing setup.
- **October 31:** Deadline for district test coordinators to complete important pre-test preparations in DRC INSIGHT:
 - select the delivery mode for LEAP 2025 grades 3 and 4 testing (online or paper);
 - verify or adjust the number of test booklets needed; and
 - verify enrollment numbers for all grades.

K—3

- **October 31:** Deadline for [Early Childhood Fall Checkpoint](#) for pre-K in the [Teaching Strategies Platform for GOLD](#).

ACT and WorkKeys

- Resources can be found on the [ACT State Testing](#) site or by contacting the WorkKeys helpdesk, 800-967-5539 (800-WorkKey).
- **Reminder:** The ACT MOU was due September 30. There are two MOUs posted in the [Assessment Library](#), one for public and charter schools and one for non-public schools receiving state funding. Be sure to use the appropriate forms.

NAEP 2019-2020

- Thirty-one Louisiana schools are participating in the NAEP 2019-2020 Long-Term Trend Study. Each principal will designate a school coordinator (SC) to support the administration of the NAEP test. The ideal school coordinator will be available to complete tasks during the pre-assessment period, collect student information, and enter it online. The deadlines for completing the Provide School Information (PSI) and E-filing are as follows:
 - Completed: Schools with age 13 students have completed the PSI and E-filing processes
 - **November 8:** Schools with age 9 students
 - **January 17:** Schools with age 17 students

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next **Assessment and Accountability Office Hours** will be October 22 at 1:00 p.m.

- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164

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

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Instructional Materials Review Weekly Report

The [Instructional Materials Review \(IMR\) Weekly Report](#) has a new, streamlined look. Materials currently under review are listed in order by subject area and then publisher and title. The gray bar indicates the phase of review and is found just after the projected release date of the review.

Please email louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Educator Preparation

New: Louisiana's Teacher and Principal of the Year Application Now Open

The [Teacher and Principal of the Year application process](#) for the 2019-2020 school year is now open. All applications, materials, and timelines are now available in the [library](#) on the [Awards](#) page.

All school systems are encouraged to select up to three teachers and three principals, one per division (elementary, middle, and high) as their local-level honorees and submit these selections to the state process. School systems without a formal selection process in place may elect to send their candidates directly to the state-level process.

State-level applications are due by **January 15** and must be submitted via an online application portal which will open in late 2019.

An informational webinar will be offered to provide Teacher and Principal of the Year coordinators with information regarding this year's process. Please join one of the webinars listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 17 at 9:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/156298119>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 156 298 119

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 23 at 9:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/875884000>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 875 884 000

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 24 at 9:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/612251484>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646 876 9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 612 251 484

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov for more information.

Special Education

New: Partnerships for Success Webinar

The Department recently released the [Partnerships for Success Guide](#), intended to guide school systems in planning for the specialized support and related service needs students with disabilities. The Department will host an in depth review of the Guide for school system leaders involved in planning the educational programming for students with disabilities. Information about the webinar is provided below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 24 at 10:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/633590477>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 633 590 477

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Louisiana's Statewide Deaf Education Coordinator

Louisiana's Special School District (SSD) is now offering support to school systems statewide to enhance quality education for deaf and hard of hearing students. Supports include, but are not limited to, professional development for educators, technical assistance, American Sign Language support, and resources.

Through collaboration with schools, families, community agencies, the SSD is excited to provide support to deaf and hard of hearing students across Louisiana.

To request support or resources, please contact Statewide Deaf Education Coordinator Dr. Ashley Argrav at ashley.argrave@la.gov.

Reminder: Notice of Intent: Alternate Assessment Participation Waiver Request

As required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Department intends to seek a waiver extension for the 2019-2020 school year of the federal requirement that would limit the number of students in the state who participate in alternate assessments aligned with alternate academic achievement standards. The purpose of this notice is to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on this intended waiver request. **The [Notice of Intent](#) will be available through October 22.**

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Data

New: Fall Data Collections

Several fall data collections are open. These collections are important for MFP and IDEA funding and assessments and are listed below.

- The Student Information System (SIS) MFP collection is still open for reporting student enrollment, free/reduced lunch status, homeless data, and attendance. The deadline is **October 25**.
- The Special Education Reporting (SER) IDEA collection is still open for reporting special education data. The reporting deadline is **October 31**.
- The K3 Assessment collection is now open for reporting K-3 Literacy and Kindergarten assessment data. The reporting deadline is **October 25**.

Please refer to the [2019-2020 Benchmark Calendar](#) for other important information regarding data submissions.

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Policy

New: Student Fee Policies

Act 240 of the 2019 Regular Legislative Session requires public school governing authorities and schools participating in the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program to **adopt policies no later than December 1**, relative to fees charged to students. The Department is charged with verifying that policies have been adopted that reflect the new state law and reporting this information to the Louisiana Legislature.

Governing authorities that have already adopted this policy, and for those that have been published to websites, as required, are encouraged to complete this [survey](#) at earliest convenience. Governing authorities that have not yet adopted the policy are encouraged to complete the survey as quickly as possible, but **no later than December 2**. Given the number of policies to be collected and reviewed before the legislative reporting deadline of December 31, Department staff would appreciate **as many early submissions as possible**.

Please contact david.maestas@la.gov with any questions.

Safe and Healthy Schools

New: School Immunization Reporting Deadline

The Louisiana Office of Public Health (OPH) reminds schools that the yearly submission of student immunization data is due **November 15**. Louisiana Revised Statute 17:170 requires chief administrators of all schools in the state, both public and private, to transmit electronically immunization compliance reports to the Louisiana Department of Health. School staff responsible for completing the submission must use the school module within LINKS, the Louisiana Immunization Network. All students attending school in Louisiana must have either a complete immunization record or an immunization exemption on file with the school in order to comply with the school entry law. School officials may exclude any student from attending school who does not present the required documentation.

Beginning with this year's data, the OPH will publish school-level data on the [OPH](#) website. Parents and interested persons will be able to look up individual schools to assess how well the school is complying with laws requiring complete immunization records for school entry.

Schools in need of assistance related to the completion of the immunization report and submission of data through LINKS are encouraged to contact parish immunization program consultants. Contact information is available at the [OPH Immunization Program](#) website.

Please contact stacy.hall@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 2019 Louisiana Farm to School Conference

Registration is open for the annual [Louisiana Farm to School Conference](#). The conference will take place on **October 23** at the Pennington Biomedical Conference Center. The conference [agenda](#) includes topics such as school gardening, child nutrition, produce safety, educational resources, and overcoming barriers of farm to school.

Please contact melissa.campbell@la.gov for more information.