

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



October 24, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

Louisiana's [plan](#) for the Every Student Succeeds Act, or ESSA, focuses on a simple concept: a school rated 'A' is one in which mastering content and skills is the norm. The state's school rating system started transitioning to this ideal in 2013 with new assessments, a transitional "curve" for letter grades, and a commitment to one day install a transition plan to the new standard for 'A' schools. Last week, four years later, BESE created that transition plan.

Along the way, at many stages, BESE incorporated input to make the system both more-ambitious and fairer. The board continued this practice last week, making the following [changes](#) in response to suggestions from superintendents:

1. Scores of "basic" will now be valued at 80 in the system, rather than 70.
2. Students scoring mastery or above will be awarded a minimum "floor" of 85 points in the progress index, rather than being able to score at the lower levels of that index.
3. In 2019, the state will use the better of 2017 or 2019 science scores for elementary and middle schools, in order to ease the transition to new assessments.

Next week, the Department will announce its new School Finder reporting system, providing parents, educators, and community members with interactive reports of information on schools across the state. The Department will not release any school- or district-specific information during this time.

School report cards will be released to the public the week of November 6, as will Early Childhood Profiles. You and your staff will have received briefings on both K-12 reports and early childhood reports prior to the release. Through its improved superintendent and principal profile dynamic reporting system, later this winter, the Department will provide you information as to your performance in 2017 but using the formula for 2018 and beyond, as approved by BESE last week.

Many of you put in many hours over the last two years, proving thoughts on the state ESSA plan, challenging it, and improving it. This dialogue yielded a radically better plan, by any measure. Now it is up to all of us, working together, to examine results, [plan](#) for school improvement based on evidence of what works, and see our plans through to fruition, school by school. Whatever one's views on policy, we have a chance to improve the lives of tens of thousands of Louisiana youths. It is a moment we should seize. Department staff will work with you and your teams on all of this in November at the [collaboration](#) in your area.

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

John

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours](#): October 31 at 1:00 p.m.
- [AP® Course Audit Process Webinar](#): November 2 at 3:30 p.m.
- [College Goal Sunday](#): November 5 at 1:30 p.m.

Important Deadlines

- Submit nominations for [U.S. Presidential Scholars Program](#) by October 27.
- Submit [Certification Appeals Application](#) by October 30.
- Submit [Louisiana Students of the Year Awards Program Information Form](#) by November 1.
- Register for [Principal](#) and [Supervisor](#) Collaborations by November 3.
- Submit EEF [Applications](#) by November 3 (extended).

School System Support

New: November School System Planning Call

The November School System Planning Call will take place on November 1 from 1:00 until 2:00 p.m. The following school system supervisors should participate:

- Early childhood supervisors
- District test coordinators
- Accountability contacts
- Curriculum supervisors
- Teacher Leader
- Mentor teacher supervisors
- Personnel directors
- High school and career and technical education supervisors

Webinar login information

- Webinar Name: November School System Planning Call

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- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dpc>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Phone number: 1-855-240-2575; PIN # 89147656

New: Compass Deadlines

Please note that December 31, 2017, is the deadline for the following important Compass tasks:

- entering principal evaluations
- entering social studies teacher evaluations
- updating 2017-18 rosters

To enter 2016-17 Compass data, please follow the instructions in the [Quick Guide](#). Please contact compass@la.gov for more information.

New: 2017-2018 Teacher Roster Verification for VAM and TSGD

The [Curriculum Verification and Results \(CVR\) Reporting Portal](#) roster verification ensures that teachers are assigned to the correct courses and classroom rosters of students for the purposes of value-added (VAM) and transitional student growth data (TSGD) analyses. This process takes place in the CVR system during two time periods to ensure enough time is available to verify records.

From November 1 until December 14, 2017, the CVR is open for view only. During this time, users can view and check the roster data for accuracy. This View-only period has been created to coincide with data submissions to the source data systems: Curriculum (CUR), Profile of Education Personnel (PEP), and Student Information (SIS) CLASS collections. Changes cannot be made in the CVR Portal during this time; however, any changes can be made in the source data submission process. The CVR Portal will be updated every 2 weeks during View-only to reflect any submitted changes to the source data. The CVR Help Desk will be able to assist with any issues that a district must correct in the source data systems.

New: Updated Grade 7 Social Studies Scope and Sequence Document Released

Please share with social studies teachers.

The [Grade 7 Social Studies Sample Scope and Sequence](#) document has been updated to provide support around the three shifts in social studies:

1. Instructional tasks that build content knowledge and skill with **sources**.
2. Coherent yearlong frame that **makes connections** among content ideas.
3. Assessments that measure how well students **express informed opinions** with evidence and outside knowledge.

Updated versions of grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and Civics are also available on the [K-12 Social Studies Resources](#) page and in each [grade level teacher library](#).

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with any questions.

Reminder: Register for the November Supervisor and Principal Collaborations

Sessions at the November Supervisor and Principal Collaborations will focus on topics relevant to school system leaders including but not limited to accountability, assessment, high school opportunities, early

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childhood, and academics. Please refer to the [Supervisor Collaboration Event Overview](#) and [Principal Collaboration Event Overview](#) documents for more information on sessions offered.

Date	Location
Thursday, November 9	Bossier Parish School for Technology and Innovative Learning 1020 Innovation Drive. Bossier City, LA 71111
Monday, November 13	Claiborne Building 1201 N. 3rd St. Baton Rouge, LA 70801
Wednesday, November 15	Bayou Church 2234 Kaliste Saloom Rd. Lafayette, LA 70508
Thursday, November 16	Jefferson Parish Public School Board 501 Manhattan Blvd. Harvey, LA 70058

Supervisor Collaborations: 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. **Principal Collaborations:** 12:00 until 4:00 p.m.

Registration is open until Friday, November 3. Remember, registration for supervisors requires a code that will be provided by your network team. Please contact districtsupport@la.gov if you are unsure of your network's contact information.

Please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions related to this event.

Reminder: SRCL Subgrant Materials

On October 12 and 16, the Department hosted a webinar to discuss the application criteria and answer other specific questions about the [Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy \(SRCL\) school system subgrants](#). The [webinar deck](#), [subgrant application](#), and other materials are available on the Department's [SRCL webpage](#).

The subgrant application is due November 10. Please email jill.slack@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Science Standards Support

Please share with science teachers.

The Department is committed to helping educators transition to the [Louisiana Student Standards for Science \(LSSS\)](#) in the 2017-2018 school year by releasing tools to support science instruction.

During the September Collaborations, the Department hosted a [session](#) on the new standards which allowed participants to explore the new science scope and sequence documents and phenomenon-based instruction. During the session, participants learned how to use the [scope and sequence documents](#) to

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engage students in learning and how to adjust their instructional practices to align with the Louisiana Student Standards for Science. Please visit the Department's YouTube channel for a [recording](#) of this session.

Please email lydia.hill@la.gov for more information.

Reminder: Louisiana Council of Supervisors of Mathematics Meeting

The Louisiana Council of Supervisors of Mathematics (LCSM), the state affiliate of the [National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics](#), will meet the afternoon of Monday, November 6 in Baton Rouge.

Please email sabrina.smith@jppss.k12.la.us if you have questions or wish to receive additional information.

Assessment and Accountability

New: LEAP Connect and ELPT Assessment Guides and Achievement Level Descriptors

Assessment Guides

- Assessment guides for social studies have been updated to include new information about test design and, for U.S. History, session time limits.
- [LEAP Connect](#) and [ELPT](#) Assessment Guides have been posted to the Assessment Guidance library. Each guide contains information about
 - the purpose of the assessment
 - test designs
 - test administration policies
 - sample test questions
 - Resources
 - rubrics

Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs)

ALDS for [LEAP Connect](#) and [ELPT](#) have been posted to the Assessment library, and describe the knowledge, skills, and abilities that students generally demonstrate on the assessment at each achievement level.

Practice Test Resources

- Updated practice test answer keys for social studies grades 3-8 (now include annotated student responses to help teachers and students better understand scoring)
- New answer keys for U.S. History, Algebra I, Geometry, English I, and English II
- Presentation and link to the recording of the [LEAP 2025 High School Practice Tests Webinar for Teachers](#)

Please email assessment@la.gov for more information.

Reminders for District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

LEAP 360

- School Summary and Test Session Summary reports are available for diagnostic assessments in [eDIRECT](#).
- Interim assessments 1 and 2 for high school are available for both teacher and student access.
- Teacher Access is available for high school LEAP 360 Interim 3. Usernames and passwords are located in the [Interim Quick Start Guide](#).

ACT

- New high schools that have not received an ACT school code should submit requests through the [ACT/SAT Common High School Code Request](#). Requests should be submitted by the school and will take approximately three weeks to process.

WorkKeys

- Register for the [Introduction to ACT WorkKeys Online Test Administration Webinar](#): 2:00–3:00 p.m. on Monday, November 6.
- See the [October Assessment and Accountability Monthly Webinar](#) for updates on WorkKeys 1.0 and 2.0.

Assessment Administration Support and Training

Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: Tuesday, October 31, 2017, at 1:00 p.m.

- Webinar link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/assessment-accountability/>
- Phone Number: 1-646-307-1380
- Participant PIN code: 89147656

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

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Student Opportunities

Reminder: Save the Date for the 2018 Jump Start Convention

Registration for the 2018 Jump Start Convention Registration will be open in [WisdomWhere](#) from November 1, 2017, until January 12, 2018. This year's conference will be held on January 23, 2018, at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge.

Attendees will include school system administrators, high school principals, teachers, professional counselors, Jump Start regional team members, and regional economic development and workforce development organizations.

Please email jumpstart@la.gov with any questions.

Talent

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New: Believe and Prepare: Full Preparation in Rural Communities Request for Applications

On September 26, the Department released a report, [Access to Full Preparation for Teachers in Rural Communities](#), highlighting the unique challenges of preparing teachers to teach in rural communities.

In response to the survey results and educator workforce data highlighted in the report, the Department released a request for applications (RFA) on October 24, 2017. The RFA seeks eligible school systems that are committed to piloting innovative approaches to increase access to high-quality, residency based preparation programs that provide ample time for hands-on practice in the classroom with appropriate supports, including an expert mentor teacher.

[Applications](#) are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 10, 2017.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov for more information.

Special Education

Reminder: APR Monitoring Outreach for School Systems

The Division of Statewide Monitoring conducts annual monitoring activities of local education agencies (LEAs) for the federally required special education annual performance report (APR). APR outreach packages will be provided to school systems that are non-compliant or disproportionate to these requirements. The outreach packages will be available via the FTP site on Friday, October 20, 2017.

Please email iris.jones@la.gov for more information.

Data

New: Data Files Available

(Please note that posting location for the files below are not the same.)

2016-2017 Subgroup CSV Files

This week, the Department will provide districts and schools with LEAP spring 2017 results by subgroup in the [DRC eDIRECT portal](#) with file name LEA/Site Code_LEA/School 2017_LEAP_Subgroup_Summary_File.

2016-2017 Progress Points for Fall 2017 SPS and DPS

The 2016-2017 K8 progress point rosters will be posted to **the secure FTP** no later than Friday, October 27. The rosters will include lists of

- all schools and the total number of K8 progress points awarded to them for the 2016-2017 SPS
- students eligible for consideration of progress points with their expected scale score and their actual scale score

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The progress point calculation in 2016-2017 is based on previous policy, which did not include student background characteristics. The expected scores reported for students are not necessarily the same as the expected scores calculated for teacher VAM. The [K8 Progress Points FAQ](#) can be found in the accountability library.

Please contact assessment@la.gov if you have any questions.

Reminder: Download the 2017 APR Monitoring Outreach FTP File

Please forward to all FTP coordinators and special education directors.

A file for the special education annual performance report (APR) monitoring outreach for school systems is available on the data management FTP site. FTP coordinators should download the data file with filename *LEACode_LEAName_2017 APR Monitoring Outreach* and provide it to the special education director.

For FTP support, please contact systemsupport@la.gov.

Finance

Reminder: FY2017-2018 Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) Program Funding

The Department has prepared a [guidance document](#) with important information on the FY2017-2018 Jobs for America's Graduates (JAGS) Program Funding.

For questions regarding the allocation, please email kim.lamonte@la.gov.

Federal Programs

New: Public Notice of Waiver Request

Please forward this item to federal program directors, business managers and financial officials of public school districts.

The Department is requesting a period of availability waiver from USDOE for the purpose of extending the availability of federal fiscal year 2017 ESSA 1003(a) school redesign awards from September 30, 2019, to September 30, 2021. This waiver would enable the Department to award three-year school redesign sub-grants to eligible LEAs.

Relevant personnel should review this waiver request and submit questions or comments to john.hanley@la.gov by Wednesday, Nov 8, 2017.

Grants Management

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Reminder: Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application

The submission deadline for the FY2017-2018 [Education Excellence Fund \(EEF\)](#) application has been extended to Friday, Nov. 3, 2017.

For assistance with creating, completing, and submitting applications in eGMS, see the Training section of the [eGMS Logon page](#).

For more information about EEF, please email ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov.

Policy

New: October 2017 BESE Meeting Summary

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met on October 18 and approved a number of bulletin revisions and recommendations. Please see the [October 2017 BESE Summary](#) for the approvals that directly impact the activities of local school systems.

New: Important Reminder on Student Fee Policies

As communicated in the June 20, September 5, and September 12, 2017 weekly newsletters, [House Resolution 183](#) of 2017 urges and requests all public school governing authorities, including local school boards and charter school governing boards, to enact and publish policies relative to student fees. Please refer to the [Guidance on Student Fees](#) if your governing board has not yet enacted and published these policies.

Next month, the Department will administer a formal survey to all local school boards and charter school governing boards to collect this detailed information in order report back to the Legislature by January 1, 2018. That report will identify the LEAs that have and have not adopted such policies, whether the policies contain the information requested in the resolution, and whether the policies have been published on the LEA's website as requested by the Legislature. The same will be collected from non-public schools that are participating in the Louisiana Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence program.

Please note that legislation is being considered for this issue for the 2018 Regular Session, based on evidence received that LEAs have or have not taken action in response to this request.

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

Reminder: Submit Nominations for U.S. Presidential Scholars Program by this Friday

The LDOE invites local superintendents and charter school LEAs to submit nominations for up to three outstanding students for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The nominations must include a male and female student, and at least one nomination should be for a student who has been successful in career and technical education. Students should be high school seniors scheduled to graduate or receive a diploma between January and June 2018.

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Nominations should be submitted through a single nomination letter for all nominees (not to exceed three pages total) signed by the local superintendent or charter school leader and emailed to leslie.hill@la.gov no later than this Friday, October 27 at 4:30 p.m. Please note "Presidential Scholars" in the subject line.

Please visit the [USDOE U.S. Presidential Scholars Program page](#) for additional program requirements, or email leslie.hill@la.gov for more information.