

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



October 29, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

The next week brings us several batches of information based on which to evaluate our strengths and weaknesses, and to create plans for improvement.

As you know, the National Assessment of Education Progress, or NAEP, releases the results of its main test every two years, measuring the reading and math proficiency of students across the U.S. and individual states. These results will be made public Wednesday of this week. You can find a brief summary of Louisiana's 2019 NAEP outcomes [here](#). Highlights discussed in the summary include notably positive trends in short-term and long-term outcomes in our state, gains in which you and your teams can take tremendous pride.

- In 2019, *Louisiana ranked number one in the nation for improvement in 8th grade math*, a longtime area of focus for school systems and the Department. The state improved on three of four NAEP tests and ranked high for its growth in each of the three areas.
- Over the last decade, Louisiana's rate of improvement on each NAEP assessment has significantly outpaced the nation. *Our state ranks in the top ten among all states for improvement on each NAEP assessment over that decade.*

Tomorrow, ACT will also release its annual report (school systems, schools, and students already have scores). Louisiana's average composite score declined this year. As you are doing, my team and I are identifying areas for particular focus going forward. We are also in dialogue with ACT about the assessment and where particular groups of students are struggling.

Finally, on November 5, the Department will release the early childhood education program "Honor Roll" results. School performance scores and early childhood performance profiles will be released on November 6. You will receive statewide performance information November 5—you already have your schools' information and should be in dialogue with the state about outcomes—and have a briefing scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on November 6 as part of the Department's quarterly superintendent call.

This process of releasing outcomes launches school systems across the state into planning for the future. Super App is a unified application that asks school systems to build one plan for school improvement and to budget federal formula and competitive dollars in service of that plan. This year's Super App improves upon last year's by expanding strategies for teacher professional development, adding opportunities for funding science and specialized supports for students with disabilities, and including early childhood education in school system plans. To learn more, please join the [Super App Preview Webinar](#) for superintendents this Friday at 1:00 p.m. You can also find information related to Super App launch events, helpdesk contact information, and webinars in the body of this newsletter. [Assistant Superintendent Pozniak](#) and her team are available again this year to provide individualized consultations to school systems through this process.

We continue to improve because we examine our results, identify our needs, and plan for the future. I'm looking forward to doing it again.

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

John

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [\(Rescheduled\) Partnerships for Success Webinar](#): November 1 at 10:00 a.m.
- [Superintendents Super App Preview Webinar](#): November 1 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Super App Launch \(Baton Rouge\)](#): November 4 at 8:00 a.m.
- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours](#): November 5 at 1:00 p.m.
- [November Superintendents' Conference Call](#): November 6 at 10:00 a.m.
- [2019 School and Center Performance Scores](#) released: November 6 at 11:00 a.m.
- [November School System Planning Call](#): November 6 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Super App Launch \(Baton Rouge\)](#): November 7 at 8:00 a.m.
- [Special Education Leader Monthly Webinar](#): November 7 at 2:00 p.m.
- [Super App Launch \(Baton Rouge\)](#): November 8 at 8:00 a.m.
- [Super App Launch \(Ruston\)](#): November 12 at 8:00 a.m.

Important Deadlines

- 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
- [SSD/LSU Deaf Education Certification Interest Survey](#) deadline: November 1
- [Believe and Prepare Math Collaborative Application](#) deadline: November 6
- [U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Nomination](#) deadline: November 15

School System Support

New: November Superintendents' Conference Call

Superintendents and charter leaders are invited to participate in the Superintendents' Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White on **November 6 at 10:00 a.m.** Participants may begin dialing into the call 15 minutes in advance. Please follow the instructions below:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 6 at 10:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/869653325>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 877-475-0109
- **Meeting ID#:** 71 877 25

You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting. Please enter your full name and school system name when logging in.

New: November School System Planning Call

The November School System Planning Call will take place on **November 6 at 1:00 p.m.** The following school system supervisors should participate:

- Curriculum and instruction supervisors
 - District test coordinators and accountability contacts
 - Early childhood supervisors
 - English learner supervisors
 - Federal program supervisors
 - High school and career and technical supervisors
 - Personnel directors
 - Talent (Mentors, Content Leaders, Teacher Leaders) supervisors
-
- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 4 at 1:00 p.m.
 - **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/>
 - **Meeting ID#:** 398 875 849

Email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

New: Superintendents' Super App Preview Webinar

A Superintendents' Super App Preview Webinar will be held this **Friday, November 1** to review the School System Planning Process and Super App for 2020-2021 prior to the Launch events. Webinar details are listed below.

Webinar Date and Time: November 1 at 1:00 p.m.
Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/938420273>
Webinar Phone Number: 646-876-9923
Webinar ID#: 938 420 273

Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

New: Save-the-Date: Teacher Leader Summit 2020

The **2020 Teacher Leader Summit will take place May 27–29** at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. Registration for the Summit will occur in three phases:

- Early bird registration (January 10 through March 1)
- Regular registration (March 2 through May 11)
- On-site registration for those who do not register by May 11

School systems will not receive a specific allotment of seats. **Registration will be filled on a first come, first served basis.**

To help offset the cost of running a high-quality, multi-day event for thousands of Louisiana educators, the Department will charge a small registration fee for the 2020 Teacher Leader Summit.

This fee will cover:

- admission to conference;
- conference sessions; and
- lunch (May 27 & May 28).

Description	1-Day Ticket	3-Day Ticket
Early Bird Registration (January 10—March 1)	\$35	\$80
Regular Registration (March 2—May 11)	\$45	\$100
On-site Registration (May 27—29)	\$60	N/A

Educators can receive a discount by registering early and registering for all three days at once. Educators can choose to not eat the lunch provided, but may not opt-out of the registration fee.

Please contact ldoevents@la.gov with questions.

New: U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

The U.S. Department of Education has invited chief state school officers to nominate outstanding students for the [U.S. Presidential Scholars Program](#). This year, states are allowed to submit nominations for up to twenty-five outstanding students who would otherwise not qualify under the program's traditional academic component (automatically qualified based on ACT/SAT scores) or arts component. Nominations may also include students who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in career and technical education (CTE).

The Department invites school systems to **submit nominations for up to three outstanding students**. The nominations must include a male and female student for the general category, and at least one nomination should be for a student who has been successful in CTE. Students must be high school seniors scheduled to graduate or receive a diploma between January and August of 2020. Please review the [additional program requirements](#) to learn more.

Nominations should be submitted through a single nomination letter for all nominees (not to exceed three pages total) signed by the local superintendent or school leader, and emailed to leslie.hill@la.gov **no later than November 15 at 4:30 p.m.** Please include the student's name, home mailing address, gender, and email address, as well as the high school name, mailing address, and CEEB code. Selected nominees will be sent through a secure online form to the U.S. Department of Education. Please note "Presidential Scholars" in the subject line.

Please contact leslie.hill@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Release of School and Center Performance Communications Toolkits **Please share with family engagement coordinators, principals, and early childhood directors.**

The Department recently released a [toolkit](#) to help school systems, schools, and early childhood centers communicate the release of their 2019 performance scores in the [Louisiana School Finder](#). The toolkit includes resources such as:

- School Finder flyer, poster, website button, and social media graphics
- Sample early childhood and K—12 news releases
- Animated videos to help explain early childhood performance profiles
- Early childhood and K—12 customizable parent night presentations

All resources are available in the [principal support library](#). All videos are available on the Department's [YouTube channel](#) on the "School Finder" playlist.

Please contact doecommunications@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 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.**
 - **2018-2019 SPS Appeal/Waiver Form** available in the [accountability library](#) and **must be completed by December 5** for 2019 SPS requests. Please remember that appeals and waivers cannot be based on data that could have been corrected during the data certification process. Please send questions to jennifer.baird@la.gov.

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

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

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.

Important: Post-Data Certification Rosters

- Student-level rosters for all indices used in the calculation of school performance scores have been updated to include approved changes and voids, and are now available on the secure FTP. As schools and districts discuss the SPS with network leaders, the post-data certification rosters should be used to verify data.
- Please note: Corrections that should have been resolved during the data certification process cannot be used as grounds for an appeal or waiver of the SPS.

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

- Fall high school test setup is now open in the DRC INSIGHT portal. District and school test coordinators should create test administrator numbers, verify accommodations, and assign students to test sessions. Please note: Accountability codes should not be applied until the end of the window for initial testers. Accountability codes are not necessary for students who are retesters.
- Fall 2019 [Test Administration](#) and [Test Coordinator](#) manuals are now available in the DRC INSIGHT portal for printing and distribution to school test coordinators and test administrators.
- School systems must submit their fall LEAP 2025 high school test administration schedules for school to assessment@la.gov as soon as possible.
- **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.
- **November 15:** Deadline for school systems to submit requests to assessment@la.gov for fall LEAP 2025 high school after hours testing (later than 4:30 p.m.). Submission should include the six-digit site code of the school.

K—3

- **October 31:** Deadline for data managers to submit the KEA and K—3 data with the SIS K—3 Assessment Collection or in the Teaching Strategies platform for GOLD. The collection window is officially open as of October 16.
- Data managers should reference pages 13—17 in the [SIS K—3 Assessment Collection Guidance](#) for record layout and coding.
- **October 31:** Deadline for [Pre-K Early Childhood Fall Checkpoint](#) 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 at 800-967-5539 (800-WorkKey).

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 school coordinator will need 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 November 5 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 Assessment and Accountability call scheduled for November 12 has been postponed to November 19. **There will be no call or office hours on November 12.**

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

High School Pathways

Reminder: 2020 Jump Start Convention Registration

Please share with administrators and counselors.

[Registration](#) for the 2020 Jump Start Convention is now open and will close on **January 3**. Participants will learn the latest trends in career and technical education and take a “deep dive” into the new streamlined Jump Start 2.0 pathways that will be considered for adoption in spring 2020. A list of [discounted hotels](#) is available for this event.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Educator Preparation

New: Pre-Educator Pathway Available Now

At their October meeting, BESE approved an educator pathway that provides a K—16/pre-education program for both TOPS University and TOPS Tech diploma-seeking high school students, who intend to pursue a career in the field of education.

In this pathway, academic instruction and field experiences will be paired to prepare students to pass required Louisiana teacher certification exams (e.g. Praxis Core Reading, Writing, Math) and ultimately master the General Teacher Competencies required for teacher certification in Louisiana.

Credentialing Opportunities:

- Pre-Educator University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) Regional Core Credential
- Statewide CIW credentials, and CompTIA A+ Basic and Security credentials

Please contact jennifer.tuttleton@la.gov for more information.

Reminder: Believe and Prepare Math Collaborative

The Believe and Prepare Math Collaborative is a collaborative to bring together the best minds from both higher education and K—12 to design teaching methods syllabi for elementary and secondary math courses that, in turn, will be available for public use. The goal of the collaborative is to ensure that teachers completing teacher preparation programs are well prepared to effectively implement standards-aligned instruction using high-quality curriculum materials.

The following educators are encouraged to [apply](#):

- Higher education faculty who teach math methods courses;
- Higher education faculty who teach math courses for education majors; and
- Effective K—12 educators who help support math (e.g., math curriculum coaches, current math content leaders, district math supervisors).

[Applications](#) are due **November 6**.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov for more information

Special Education

New: Join the Special Education Leader Monthly Webinar

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for school system directors, supervisors, and coordinators of special education on **November 7 at 2:00 p.m.** Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, guidance, and training opportunities. Pre-registration is not required.

- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/836904974>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923 (for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 836 904 974

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

New: Rescheduled 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 of students with disabilities.

The Department will host a webinar 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: **Friday, November 1** at 10:00 a.m. *(new date and time)*

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/301635810?pwd=KzYvNEVoeXQ4WllxQmJpbldVNzVGQT09>

Webinar Phone Number: 646-876-9923

Meeting ID#: 301 635 810

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions regarding the Partnerships for Success Guide.

Reminder: High Cost Services Round 1 Application Released

The High Cost Services (HCS) fund supports school systems and schools who serve Louisiana's students with complex needs by providing additional funding for high-cost special education services for students with disabilities. The FY 2019-2020 HCS Round 1 application is now available in eGMS. The **submission deadline is November 15**. To learn more about the grant, please see the [grant overview](#) and [state plan](#).

Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Deaf Education Certification Program at LSU Baton Rouge

Special School District's (SSD) Center for Innovation and Low Incidence Support and Louisiana State University's School of Education have partnered to develop a new Deaf Education Add-On [Certification](#) program. The SSD is conducting a survey to gauge interest in the emerging program. Interested educators should complete this [survey](#) **by November 1**. The first cohort will take two courses during the spring 2020 semester, with additional coursework offered each subsequent semester. The classes will be offered at LSU Baton Rouge with an option for remote participation via Zoom.

Please contact mhenderson@lsdvi.org with questions.

Data

New: 2019-2020 Teacher Roster Verification for VAM

Please share with administrators.

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) analyses. The data in CVR will be used to calculate a teacher's VAM score even if the teacher and/or principal do not verify the roster. Teachers instructing ELA, math, science, social studies (grades 4—8), and Algebra, Geometry, English I, and English II courses (all grades) should verify their rosters as they are eligible to receive VAM scores.

November 1—December 13 (6 weeks): CVR Open for View-only

- Users can view and check the roster data for accuracy and make changes in the source data systems (SIS, CUR, PEP). The CVR Help Desk will be able to assist with any issues that a school system must correct in the source data systems.

An updated user guide for CVR is [now available](#). Please contact ldoecvr@la.gov with questions regarding roster verification and compass@la.gov with general Compass related questions.

Policy

Reminder: October BESE Meeting Summary

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met on October 16 and approved a number of bulletin revisions and recommendations. A summary of the approvals that directly impact the activities of local education agencies is [available](#).

Please contact ryan.n.gremillion@la.gov for more information.

Federal Programs

New: Developing School Emergency Operations Plans Workshop

The [LSU NCBRT/Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education at Louisiana State University](#) is holding a unique [training opportunity](#) for school and school system representatives to learn about developing School Emergency Operations Plans.

Important information will be shared as well as instructions on creating and maintaining school crisis plans and emergency operations plans. Training is free to all Louisiana K—12 school personnel and community partners, but seating is limited. Please register below.

Developing and Enhancing School Emergency Operations Plans	
Date and Time	Location and Registration
December 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	LDWF- Lafayette Field Office Room 2039 200 Dulles Drive, Lafayette, LA 70506
December 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Lincoln Parish Federal Programs Building 504 East Arizona Avenue, Ruston, LA 71270
January 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Westside Regional Library 5416 Provine Place Alexandria, LA 71303
January 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Calcasieu Parish Public Library-Central Branch DeBakey Room 301 W. Claude Street Lake Charles, LA 70605

Please contact catherine.pozniak@la.gov with questions.

Program Monitoring

Reminder: IDEA Annual Performance Report (APR) Monitoring Outreach for School Systems

Please share with IDEA directors.

Annually, the Department is required to analyze special education data and conduct outreach regarding outcomes for particular indicators as part of the IDEA, Part B State Performance Plan and report these in the special education annual performance report (APR).

Results will be provided to school systems via APR outreach packets, which **will be available in the FTP on October 25**. Any school system identified as needing improvement in one or more targeted indicators will be required to submit a plan of correction to the Department by **November 22**.

Additional details on this process, including the timeline, will be provided in the APR outreach packets.

Please contact iris.jones@la.gov with any questions.