



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

November 2, 2021

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	November 4 at 3 p.m.
Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours	November 8 at 3:30 p.m.
P-EBT Data Managers Office Hours	November 9 at 10 a.m.
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	November 9 at 12 p.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	November 9 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	November 9 at 3:45
Education Technology Office Hours	November 11 at 9 a.m.
Data Coordinator Office Hours	November 11 at 1 p.m.
School System Planning Office Hours	November 12 at 10 a.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Literacy Monthly Call	November 4 at 10 a.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	November 4 at 1 p.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	November 5 at 9 a.m.
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	November 10 at 11 a.m.
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	November 10 at 3 p.m.
CLSD UIN Communities of Practice	November 12 at 11 a.m.
Teaching and Learning Roundtable	November 12 at 11 a.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	November 15 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	November 16 at 3:45 p.m.
Nonpublic Monthly Call	November 17 at 2 p.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	November 18 at 9 a.m.

Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	November 18 at 10 a.m.
SPED Leader Monthly Call	November 18 at 2 p.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	November 18 at 3 p.m.
System Leaders Roundtable	November 19 at 9 a.m.
Preparation Providers Monthly Call	November 24 at 10 a.m.
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	December 7 at 1 p.m.
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	December 8 at 1 p.m.
<p><i>*Monthly call presentations are available in the School Improvement Library. View the School System Support Calendar to access a complete schedule of events.</i></p>	
Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
Early Literacy Commission	November 15
School Plan Family Engagement Survey	December 1

Operations

Communications

LDOE Organizational Chart Update

The Department has updated the [Meet the LDOE team](#) and [organizational chart](#) links in the Louisiana believes website. Please visit this portion of the website to learn more about the agency's leadership team and the agency's support structures.

Federal Support and Grantee Relations

School System Planning November Launch

In September LDOE released the [2022-2023 School System Planning Guide and associated planning materials](#) to support initial school system planning and submission of the Achieve! Incentive Planning Round 1 application. On Monday, November 1 LDOE hosted a School System Planning November Launch event to release updated versions of the school system planning materials to support the completion of the Achieve! Incentive Planning Round 2 application and Super App. The launch presentation deck and recording, as well as updated 2022-2023 planning resources, have been posted to the Department's [School Improvement Library](#). During November, December, and January, regularly scheduled team monthly calls will provide opportunities for school system leaders to learn more about specific sections, ask questions, and receive guidance.

Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions, and put School System Planning in the subject line.

Healthy Communities

Free In-Service Training for Educators

Please share with personnel involved in school health and/or wellness.

The Department has partnered with [Well-Ahead Louisiana](#) to provide in-service training for educators to support safe and healthy learning environments. Training topics focus on school wellness and range from *Physical Activity in the Classroom to Healthy Fundraisers, Celebrations, and Rewards*. Training topics can be adapted to address districts' unique needs. Complimentary, tailored follow-up support is available to support local implementation.

To request a training, fill out the [online training request form](#).

Please contact stephanie.jodeir@la.gov or stephen.guccione@la.gov with questions.

Grants to States for School Emergency Management Program

Please share with personnel engaged in school safety.

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 November 16, 8 a.m. - 12 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 November 17, 8 a.m. - 12 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 November 18, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Please contact rlandry@ncbrt.lsu.edu with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

ACT and WorkKeys

- The department produced ACT summary files and posted them to the ftp last week. The averages for ACT in this file are based on a student's highest score, which differs from methodology that ACT uses for averages in the Class Profile report, which are based on a student's most recent score.
- Graduation Class Profile Reports for Class of 2021 for districts and schools are available through ACT. Please contact renee.hartley@act.org to request a copy.
- The 2021-2022 ACT MOU is now past due. The documents are posted in the [Assessment Library](#). Please submit to patricia.newman@la.gov as soon as possible.
- ACT has provided a [What's New for the ACT Spring 2022](#) document on the [ACT State Testing](#) website. This general overview document covers any major changes that would impact states participating in the ACT.
- September 13, 2021- January 7, 2022: Submit initial requests for ACT approved accommodations in TAA
- October 6, 2021- April 29, 2022: Register students in Validus for the WorkKeys assessment during the online window.
- November 1- December 23: Select test and shipping dates and verify the district shipping address in [PANext](#) for ACT and WorkKeys.
- November 1- January 17: Upload student data in [PANext](#) for WorkKeys for paper testers.
- November 1- January 21: Verify student information, submit the Enroll and Unenroll Students file in [PANext](#) to ensure appropriate quantities of paper test materials are shipped for initial testing.
- See the Preparing for [State Testing FAQs](#)
- ACT Customer Care
Phone – 800.553.6244 ext. 2800 for standard time and ext.1788 for accommodations and supports

LEAP 2025

- November 8: Materials delivered to school systems testing in Window A
- November 9: Window A additional materials request available in DRC INSIGHT
 - School staff
- The next Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be Tuesday, November 9, 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

Principal & Superintendent Secure Portal Transition

In an effort to provide more impactful and integrated data analytics, the Principal & Superintendent Secure Portal will be transitioning into EdLink 360 later this school year. Secure accountability data currently available at louisianaschools.info will be integrated into the EdLink 360 system, providing accessible data and visualizations for school and district leaders.

- Users should set up their login credentials in EdLink no later than **December 1, 2021**.
- District data coordinators can assist users in setting up accounts within EdLink. Use [this guide](#) to assist in logging in to EdLink so you are ready to access secure accountability data when the transition occurs.
- Superintendents and district-level administrators should request District Administrator role, and Principals should request Principal role.
- Secure accountability data will populate in EdLink 360 by January, 2022.
- The Principal & Superintendent Secure Portal (louisianaschools.info) will remain available until accountability data transitions to EdLink. After the transition is completed, all data will be located in EdLink 360 and the Secure Portal will be discontinued.

For questions and troubleshooting issues related to EdLink, contact edlink360@la.gov.

Career and College Readiness

Comprehensive TOPS Webinar from LOSFA

Please share with school counselors.

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) is hosting a comprehensive webinar on the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) at **10 a.m. on November 4**. All school counselors are invited to attend. The webinar will include in-depth TOPS information, including TOPS Tech and TOPS Tech Early Start. Presenters will also discuss Hurricane Ida's effect on recent high school graduates. [Registration](#) is required.

Please email questions to rhonda.bridevaux@la.gov.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Instructional Support: Instructional Material Reviews

Please share with content supervisors and administrators.

The Department conducts ongoing reviews of instructional materials to support school systems in adopting curricula in all core subjects. Newly rated Tier 1 materials are listed below. All tiered reviews can be found on the [Annotated Reviews](#) webpage.

Publisher	Title and Grade Levels	Core Subject	Tiered Rating
Curriculum Associates, LLC	Ready Classroom Mathematics Grades 6-8	Math	Tier I

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Content

LEAP 360 Interim Teacher Guides

The English I and English II interim teacher guides with student samples and annotations are now available in the [DRC INSIGHT Portal \(eDIRECT\)](#). The updated teacher guides for the grades 3-8 interims will be available by Friday, November 5.

Please contact Barbara.Holland@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

Public Comment on Alternate Connectors for English Learners

The [Alternate Louisiana Connectors for English Learners](#) (Alt EL Connectors) were developed for English Learners (ELs) with significant cognitive disabilities. They were adapted from CCSSO's English Language Proficiency (ELP) Standards for ELs with Significant Cognitive Disabilities. They are consortium-wide standards, meaning they are in use in several states under other names. Thus, the standards cannot be edited or modified as a result of individual states' public review process. However, guidance will be state specific and will take into account suggestions taken from the review process and public comment.

LDOE welcomes your comments regarding the Alt EL Connectors. Comments may be submitted via this [survey](#) by November 30, 2021.

EL PD Vendor Guide

LDOE has released the [2021-2022 English Learner \(EL\) Professional Development Vendor Guide](#) to identify vendors who provide initial and ongoing training for EL programming and support. These vendors specialize in helping school systems with implementation and ongoing support to improve educational opportunities for ELs across all content areas and grades.

School systems should invest in professional development to develop the capacity of content teachers to make their content accessible to ELs of any proficiency level. Schools should consider their EL program, the amount of ELs enrolled, their EL proficiency levels, and the capacity of any EL specialists specifically working with them to then select professional development to meet the needs.

All questions should be directed to diverselearnersupport@la.gov.

ARP IDEA Funding Guidance

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) offers the first COVID-19 related targeted IDEA resources to address the challenges faced in ensuring services for children with disabilities during this pandemic. The purpose of the ARP IDEA funds is to provide districts with relief funds to address the impact COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools that are providing educational services and is intended to help school districts safely reopen schools, and with a focus on acceleration rather than remediation. These funds will be released to school systems in November, and LDOE has created [guidance](#) for systems to use when planning for these funds.

Questions should be directed to specialeducation@la.gov.

Educator Development

2020-2021 School Leader Evaluation Scores

Due to the federal waiver of SPS scores traditionally used for leader Student Learning Targets (SLTs), districts now have the following options for completing the student growth portion of 2020-2021 Leader SLTs.

1. If leaders did not use SPS scores as one of their SLTs they are not impacted by the federal waiver of the SPS scores and will enter evaluations as planned.
2. If leaders had one SLT that was based on SPS scores and one based on alternate measures, the alternate SLT should be duplicated for a final student growth score.
3. If districts used only SPS scores for SLTs, the observation score will comprise the sum total of the evaluation score as student growth scores are unavailable.

The leader evaluation upload window will be open from December 6th -December 22nd, 2021 in CIS. Please note that scores from 2021-2022 cannot be entered during that time.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

Resident Funding Increase

The amount of funding school systems will receive for resident teachers is increasing from \$1,000 to **\$1,800**. This will go into effect this school year, 2021-2022.

Residents eligible for this funding are year-long undergraduate residents who hold a resident certificate by October 1, 2021 and are completing their residency in a public school. This increase is only for residents; the Mentor allocation will still be **\$1,000**.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: Episode 15 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 15 Summary: Calcasieu Parish Schools, A Story of Resilience with Superintendent Karl Bruchhaus Superintendent Bruchhaus shares how his system prioritized people, modified operations, and how their staff went above and beyond for their kids during a year of devastation. Haynesville Elementary School is featured during the What's Making Me Smile segment for what they are doing to make school a positive, fun, and inclusive place.

Educators can subscribe to the [podcast](#) and listen to the latest episode.

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 with questions.

Staffing and Scheduling Initiative

The [Staffing and Scheduling](#) guidance document has been updated to include:

1. Guidance for hiring retired teachers
2. Sample language for IEPs to reinforce and support this best practice guidance
3. Refined guidance related to connecting acceleration and core instruction
4. Expanded options for creating time for acceleration in the schedule

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

Webinar	Date and Time	Link
Staffing Q&A Session	November 3 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link
Scheduling Q&A Session	November 10 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link
Job Alike Support Session for District Leaders	November 16 at 11 a.m.	Registration Link
Job Alike Support Session for Diverse Leader Learners	November 16 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link
Job Alike Support Session for Counselors and Counseling Leadership	November 18 at 11 a.m.	Registration Link
Job Alike Support Session for School Leaders	November 18 at 1 p.m.	Registration Link

Please email Markecia.Barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Acceleration Professional Development

This month's [Louisiana Acceleration Series](#) session is Maximizing Collaborative Structures to Support Acceleration. During this session, participants will unpack the role of the leadership team in supporting teachers to accelerate learning and will learn how administrators and teacher leaders can strengthen their capacity to support accelerated learning. The target audience for this session is school and district leadership teams. Educators can receive a certificate upon completion of each training.

Session Date	Session Format
Tuesday, November 2	Virtual
Wednesday, November 3	Virtual
Thursday, November 4	Virtual
Monday, November 8	Virtual
Tuesday, November 9	In person, New Orleans
Wednesday, November 10	Virtual
Thursday, November 11	Virtual

Please email Markecia.Barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Summer Learning Programs

Summer learning programs require year-round planning. During the months of November through December, school systems can utilize the checklist located in the [Summer Learning Program Guidance](#) to continue planning for their 2022 program. Some of the checklist items include:

- Release SLP dates to educators and families,
- Outreach for preliminary community support,
- Develop and distribute an interest survey for students,
- Develop a distribute an interest survey for staff, and
- Develop a needs assessment with stakeholder input. .

In Super App, school systems must provide a summer learning program that includes tutoring for all students at CIR and UIR-A schools next summer.

Questions can be emailed to Markecia.Barthelemy@la.gov.

School Improvement Best Practices

The [School Improvement Best Practices](#) strategy is designed to support schools in adopting the essential components that drive professional and student growth and will continue during the 2022-2023 school year. LDOE has partnered with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) to develop, implement, and support five [School Improvement Best Practices](#). The five best practices are:

- instructional leadership team support,
- teacher collaboration support,
- teaching standards support,
- principal standards support, and
- career pipeline support.

All schools in Louisiana can participate in this [opportunity](#) to support implementation of these essential practices through training sessions during Summer 2022. Educators in all schools can benefit from these best practices, no matter what the current school performance might be. Through these practices, all educators and their students reap the awards of strong leadership practices, teacher collaboration, teaching standards, and career opportunities.

Educators may use this [link](#) to learn more about the [School Improvement Best Practices](#) strategy training sessions, what's new for Summer 2022, and the requirements for CIR and UIR-A schools. School systems may apply for funds through their Achieve! application or use other funding sources for schools without an intervention label.

Please contact Markecia.Barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Save the Date

Teacher Leader Summit will take place from **May 31 - June 2, 2022** at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours

Teachers are encouraged to join the conversation around the implementation of literacy best practices based in the science of teaching reading that happens weekly with the Literacy Division. Topics are shared, and time is given for questions and discussion. As teachers navigate their daily literacy instruction and may be embarking on literacy foundations training, this time can be useful to facilitate thought partnership and generate ideas and new knowledge.

Meeting Info: Mondays at 3:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 961 5365 2200

Passcode: literacy

Dial-in Number: 312-626-6799

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- **Operations**
 - *Federal Support and Grantee Relations*
 - *Nutrition Support*
- **Career and College Readiness**
- **School System Financial Services**
- **Teaching and Learning**
 - *Academic Content*
 - *Educator Development*

Operations

Federal Support and Grantee Relations

ARP Homeless II Follow Up Webinar

Please share with district homeless liaisons.

All LEAs that accepted ARP Homeless II Funding are asked to join the follow up webinar on November 4 at 10 a.m. to discuss allowable uses of funds. Funds will be released in the Achieve application on November 11.

Join Zoom Meeting Information:

Zoom Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97207468104?pwd=alA5amlFWGJHK0U4YksxRVA2ZTkzd09>

Meeting ID: 972 0746 8104

Passcode: 009963

Phone numbers: 312 - 626 – 6799 OR 720 - 746 - 8104

Please contact antiqua.hunter@la.gov with questions.

Nutrition Support

FY 2022 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Application

Please share with school foodservice supervisors and directors.

Applications for the 2021-2022 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program are available for returning sponsors via the **Child Nutrition Program (CNP) website**. Applications must be completed and submitted by November 12, 2021.

Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

2022 Jump Start Convention

Please share with CTE personnel, counselors, and school administrators.

The 2022 Jump Start Convention will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge. [Registration is currently open](#), and will close on Friday, December 3 or when capacity is reached.

Please contact erica.spencer@la.gov with questions.

Fall NCCER ICTP/Core and Welding Instructor Training Opportunities

Please share with school counselors, principals, and CTE supervisors.

NCCER ICTP/Core and Welding teacher certification will be held either in-person or virtually. Fall Training dates for ICTP/Core and Welding include:

- ICTP/Core - November 1 - 5
- Welding Level 1 - November 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12
- ICTP/Core - December 13 - 17

The cost of the certification classes is \$650.00 for ICTP/Core, and \$675 for Welding. Registration costs will be paid directly to the trainer. Perkins and/or CDF funds can pay for training costs. Prior to registering for the training all potential craft instructors are required to submit documentation of skill. Upon verification, instructors will be provided a registration link.

Please contact troy.borne@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

FY 2019-2020 Fiscal Risk Assessment

Please forward to business managers.

By law, each city, parish, or other local public school board shall be notified on a regular basis of its financial status per the annual Fiscal Risk Assessment. The FY2019-2020 Fiscal Risk Assessment has been completed and populated for each school system or school to include the latest available data. Final data is now available on each LEA's "edfin" FTP site. Please contact SchoolFinanceHelpDesk@la.gov with any 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 endorsed a [draft of the Social Studies Standards](#) in a public meeting that was held on September 25. The Department has extended the time frame for public comment. All stakeholders now have the opportunity to comment on individual standards using an online [Public Comment Form](#) throughout the months of October and November.

Materials from steering committee meetings, including videos of past meetings, and updates given to BESE and to the House Education Committee can be found in the [Standards Review Committee Library](#).

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions

ELA Guidebooks Materials Review for Grades 3-5 Pilot

Please share with ELA supervisors and ELA Curriculum Specialists

The ELA Guidebooks units for grades 3-5 are being updated to include additional supports for diverse learners, writing strategies from [The Writing Revolution](#)[®], and unit texts that meet the needs of all students. The Department is providing early access to three updated 3-5 units to gather feedback on the content through the Materials Review cohort. This cohort will have the opportunity to review and provide feedback to one or more of the three units prior to their Spring 2022 release.

The opportunity to join the Materials Review cohort for the ELA Guidebooks Grades 3-5 Pilot has been extended and interested school systems should review the [Guidebooks Materials Review](#) document then submit the [survey](#) by November 12 to commit to participating in the cohort.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

BESE Tuition Program for Teachers-Applications for Spring 2022 Open Now!

Please share with all classroom teachers

The BESE Tuition Program for Teachers provides tuition funding for selected classroom teachers to enroll in courses at regionally accredited colleges or universities in Louisiana. Online applications for coursework funding for the summer and fall 2021 semesters are open now through November 12.

Program details, as well as a link to the application, can be found on the [Continuing Opportunities for Educators page](#).

Please contact stem@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Teacher Preparation Provider Program Approvals

In October, the providers below received BESE approval to offer teacher development trainings.

Program	Provider	Content or Certification Area
Mentor Teacher	St. Charles Parish	Mentor Teacher (Elementary, ELA, Math, and Universal)
Initial Teacher Preparation	Louisiana Tech University	6-12 Mathematics
		6-12 Science (Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, General Science, Physics, Earth Science)
Content Leader	A+PEL	K-2 Literacy Content Leader
	Keys to Literacy	

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

Professional Practice Scores 2020-2021

BESE approved a proposal moving through the formal rulemaking process this October **for the 2021-2022 academic year only** regarding the number of required observations. Only one formal observation for the 2021-2022 academic year is required for those who earn a rating of Highly Effective or Effective:Proficient (score of 2.5 or higher) on the first observation. Individuals earning Highly Effective or Effective:Proficient on the first observation shall receive a second observation upon request.

Any teacher or administrator who earns an observation rating of Ineffective or Effective: Emerging (2.4 or lower) will require two observations.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.