

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



November 5, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Earlier today, you received statewide performance data that detail how well schools and early childhood centers across the state prepared students, birth through grade 12, for the next level of learning during the 2018-2019 school year. The results will be available online in the [Louisiana School and Center Finder](#) tomorrow at 11:00 a.m.

The public school scores mark an important milestone in the implementation of the state's [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\) plan](#), which requires states to [identify and improve struggling public schools](#). The results indicate promising initial outcomes in many long-struggling schools identified as needing improvement:

- Of 219 schools initially identified under ESSA as in need of comprehensive improvement, excluding alternative schools, 36 percent increased by 3 or more school performance score (SPS) points, 40 percent remained generally steady, and 24 percent declined by 3 or more SPS points. By comparison, 29 percent of other schools, excluding alternative schools, increased by 3 or more points.
- Of the 219 struggling schools identified by the state, excluding alternative schools, 43 schools—20 percent—improved a full letter grade, compared with 15 percent among all other public schools, excluding those already scoring at the 'A' level.

However, the results also signal the need for significantly greater improvement in struggling schools. As required by the state's ESSA plan, Louisiana has added to its list of identified schools those schools with persistently struggling groups of students. The identified 571 schools—44 percent of all public schools in Louisiana—will be required to develop plans for improvement to submit to the state for approval and funding this winter. Of those schools, 89 have received ratings of 'F' for two or more consecutive years, and 25 have received 'F' ratings for four or more consecutive years, making them eligible for BESE to designate them to the [Recovery School District \(RSD\)](#).

Today's release also equips parents and communities with information on early childhood centers across the state, which have showed continued progress in the years since the state Legislature passed the landmark [Early Childhood Education Act, known as Act 3](#). Compared to last year, 126 more sites—a 7 percent increase—achieved "proficient" or above ratings, indicating more children are receiving quality care and education.

The results emphasize the need to further expand access to these high-quality programs, particularly for children between birth and age three. While 86 percent of economically disadvantaged 4 year olds have access to a center rated as demonstrating quality early learning, only 1 percent of our infants, 6 percent of our toddlers, and 26 percent of our 3 year olds do. This is a gap that must be rectified through a focus on both increased resources and increased quality of service.

As demonstrated [by nation-leading results](#) on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP), we are making progress. This doesn't happen by coincidence. Day in and day out, our schools and early childhood centers are doing what works: high-quality curriculum, high-quality teaching, and support for teachers and students alike, especially when they struggle. Let's keep it going.

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

John

In This Issue

- [School System Support](#)
- [Assessment & Accountability](#)
- [High School Pathways](#)
- [Educator Preparation](#)
- [Special Education](#)
- [Data](#)
- [Federal Programs](#)
- [Safe and Healthy Schools](#)

Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [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.
- [Tools to Assist Schools Navigate the Vaping Epidemic Webinar](#): November 13 at 12:00 p.m.
- [School Support Institute \(New Orleans Cohort\)](#): November 18 at 8:30 a.m.
- [Super App Office Hours](#): November 18 at 11:00 a.m.
- [School Support Institute \(Baton Rouge Cohort\)](#): November 19 at 8:30 a.m.
- [CLASS@ Overview Webinar](#): November 19 at 10:00 a.m.
- [Assessment and Accountability Office Hours](#): November 19 at 1:00 p.m.
- [School Support Institute \(Lafayette Cohort\)](#): November 20 at 8:30 a.m.
- [School Support Institute \(Northern Cohort\)](#): November 21 at 8:30 a.m.

Important Deadlines

- [Believe and Prepare Math Collaborative Application](#) deadline: November 6
- [U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Nomination](#) deadline: November 15
- High Cost Services Round 1 Application deadline: November 15
- [2019-2020 AP Exam Order](#) deadline: November 15

School System Support

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 tomorrow, November 6** in the [Louisiana School Finder](#). Below is a timeline for when school systems will receive data and resources related to this release:

- **Today, November 5:**
 - Early childhood education program “Honor Roll” results publicly released.
 - School system leaders will receive statewide, school-system, and school-level suppressed results this evening.
- **Tomorrow, 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.

New: Super App Office Hours

The Department launched the 2020-2021 School System Planning process and Super App on November 4. The Department will host three more Super App Launch events: November 7 and 8 in Baton Rouge and November 12 in Ruston from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Launch materials are available in the [School Improvement Library](#).

Super App Office Hours will be held on **November 18 at 11:00 a.m.** for planning team members to review actions school systems should be taking during the month of November and ask questions. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 18 at 11:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/405281497>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Webinar ID#:** 405 281 497

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

New: 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.

- SEAP meeting dates

Please email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

New: School Support Institutes Day 2

Day 2 of the School Support Institutes will take place this month.

November 18	November 19	November 20	November 21
New Orleans Cohort	Baton Rouge Cohort	Lafayette Cohort	Northern Cohort
Intercontinental Hotel 444 St. Charles Ave. New Orleans, LA 70130	Marriott Baton Rouge 5500 Hilton Avenue Baton Rouge, LA 70608	Cajun Dome 444 Cajundome Lafayette, LA 70506	Monroe Civic Center 401 Lea Joyner Memorial Expy Monroe, LA 71201

Participants who attended Day 1 of the School Support Institutes are already registered for Day 2 and are expected to attend the same pathway they attended on Day 1 to continue the arc of learning. Those who registered should have received a follow-up email from SchoolKit on October 11, regardless of attendance on Day 1. The Department encourages those who registered, but did not receive an email, to please contact SSI@schoolkitgroup.com.

All resources from Day 1 of the School Support Institute are posted in the [School Improvement Library](#), including a recap of all pathways and next steps for school systems. Attendees are reminded to bring Application Task artifacts to the November Institute.

Please contact delaina.larocque@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: November Superintendents' Conference Call

Superintendents and charter leaders are invited to participate in the Superintendents' Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White **tomorrow, 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.

Reminder: November School System Planning Call

The [November School System Planning Call](#) will take place **tomorrow, 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:** November 6 at 1:00 p.m.
 - **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/>
 - **Meeting ID#:** 398 875 849

Email districtsupport@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: 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 and 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 ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 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 a 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.

Assessment and Accountability

New: LEAP 360 Updates

LEAP 360 will continue to be a Department-funded resource for school systems in 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. This includes access to K–2 formative tasks, diagnostics, and interim test forms at no cost to school systems.

Given school systems' continued work to reduce unnecessary testing through the increased use of high-quality curriculum with embedded assessments, the LEAP 360 program is evolving:

- The number of ELA interims is being reduced this year to provide only Form 1 for each grade or course.
- Math will continue to offer two forms in grades 3 through 8 and three forms in high school.

LEAP 360 resources (e.g., A Teacher's Guide to LEAP 360, A District's Guide to LEAP 360), available in the [Assessment Library](#), will be updated to reflect this change later this month.

School systems that wish to continue using LEAP 360 will be required to sign and return the [LEAP 360 MOU](#) by **June 26**.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

New: CLASS® Overview Webinar

The Department is hosting a CLASS® Overview Webinar on **November 19** to provide information around the CLASS® tool, including current pilot updates and future opportunities to join.

CLASS® is an observation instrument that measures the effectiveness of teacher-student interactions that promote academic learning, engagement, and social development. It is used statewide in pre-K and is now in its fourth pilot year for kindergarten. Information needed to join the webinar is listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 19 at 10:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/955722960>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646 876 9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 955 722 960

Please contact brandy.brunson@la.gov with questions.

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

Important: English III EOC School System Administration Materials

- The English III EOC will no longer be available as a state-administered test. By mid-November, schools systems will receive a folder, which will include all materials needed to administer and score English III assessments provided three times yearly through a process determined by the school system. Included in the folder will be manuals that include specific directions and a FAQ that will help to answer additional questions.
- Requests for braille forms of the test are provided as needed by the Department and should be addressed to assessment@la.gov.
- Please contact jennifer.baird@la.gov with questions.

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 school systems 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.
- **Past Due, November 1:** Deadline to submit fall LEAP 2025 high school testing schedules to assessment@la.gov.
- 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.

ACT and WorkKeys

- Due to the Veteran's Day holiday, the ACT Q&A scheduled for November 11 at 11:00 a.m. **has been rescheduled** to November 18 at 11:00 a.m.
- November 4–29: [PearsonAccessnext](#) (PANext) opens to manage participation, choose shipping dates, and verify the district secure shipping address for both spring 2020 ACT and WorkKeys.
- November 4–January 31: Request accommodations and/or supports for eligible **ACT** examinees through the [Test Accessibility and Accommodations Systems](#) (TAA).
- The schedule of events for both ACT and WorkKeys spring 2020 are now posted on the [ACT State Testing](#) site. Please refer to these documents for all important dates and deadlines for both ACT and WorkKeys.
- The [ACT State Testing](#) site has an [Orientation](#) tutorial for ACT and [Configuration](#) tutorial for WorkKeys available.
- 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 19 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

New: Upcoming Advanced Placement Deadline

Please share with administrators and instructional leaders.

School- and school system-level Advanced Placement stakeholders should activate their account on [MyAP Planner](#) prior to **November 15**.

November 15 is the deadline to order exams for the 2019-2020 academic year. Exams can be ordered by visiting [MyAP Planner](#).

Please contact collegereadiness@la.gov for more information.

Educator Preparation

New: New Principals Workshop

The [Louisiana Association of Principals](#) (LAP), in conjunction with the Department, is offering a half-day new principals workshop. This workshop is designed for principals with 0–3 years experience. Attendees will learn what it takes to improve staff dynamics, increase morale, and create positive conditions for staff and student success.

[The New Principals Workshop](#) will be held from **8:00–11:30 a.m. on December 10 in Lafayette** at the DoubleTree Hotel. The cost is free for LAP members and \$100 for non-LAP members. Seating is limited to the first 100.

The deadline to [register](#) is **November 29**.

Please contact debra.schum@laprincipals.org with questions.

Reminder: 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.

Special Education

Reminder: Join the Special Education Leader Monthly Webinar

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for school system directors, supervisors, and coordinators of special education **Thursday, 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.

Data

Reminder: 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.

Federal Programs

Reminder: 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.

Safe and Healthy Schools

New: Tools to Assist Schools Navigate the Vaping Epidemic Webinar

Please share with administrators.

On November 13, the Public Health Law Center and American Lung Association will be presenting a webinar on approaches that effectively alleviate the addictive properties of nicotine in place of strictly punitive measures. ALA's INDEPTH program is an alternative option to students who face suspension for violation of school tobacco or nicotine use policies.

School administrators and educators are encouraged to learn more about this program by joining the [Tools to Assist Schools Navigate the Vaping Epidemic Webinar](#) on November 13 at 12:00 p.m.

Please contact porsha.vallo@la.gov with questions.