

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



November 12, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, the state Department of Education last week [released](#) school performance scores and early childhood performance profiles for every school and early childhood center in the state. The release indicated that struggling schools are making initial strides under the provisions of their ESSA improvement plans. As we start planning for submissions of this year's [Super App](#), we will look to continue that progress this year and next.

Less prominent in the announcement was the inclusion of a [new rating formula](#) for alternative schools. Whereas these schools, which are designed for temporary stays for students experiencing difficulties at home schools, had previously been evaluated in the same manner as traditional schools, they now will be rated based on their ability to catch students up, getting them back on track. The rating system examines academic progress, credit accumulation, and graduation gains, focusing on the school's capacity to get students ready to return to their original school.

This system didn't vault any alternative schools to the top of the state list. There are not yet any alternative schools rated 'A' or 'B.' But under the new system, in its first year, the most frequent rating was 'C.' Even more important, alternative schools showed real strengths and real challenges, widely varying in their performance across the different indicators of the system. If before our state had a sort of passive acceptance that these schools would simply be rated 'F,' we now have a nuanced field of information about these schools, showing highlights and lowlights. Most important, we have a baseline off of which to make great improvements.

You can find a list of alternative schools and their ratings [here](#). Please take a look, and please share in the pride and gratitude we feel for those students striving to get back on track. Alternative schools need not be in the shadows of our school system; they can be beacons of hope, charged with a critical mission: to serve those who most need service.

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

John

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [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.
- [October 1 CLASS–CVR Overview Webinar](#): November 18 at 1:00 p.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

- [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
- [2020-2021 Extension Academies RFA](#) priority deadline: November 20
- [FY 2019-2020 Education Excellence Fund Application](#) deadline: November 21
- [2019 School Improvement Parent Meeting Survey](#) deadline: December 1

School System Support

New: 2018-2019 School and Center Performance Score Release

The 2018-2019 school and center performance scores were recently released in the [Louisiana School and Center Finder](#) and the [Performance Library](#). The School and Center Performance briefing and related press releases are included below.

School and Center Performance

- [2018-2019 School and Center Performance Briefing](#)

Press Releases

- [Scores Provide First Look at Improvement in Schools Identified in ESSA Plan](#)
- [Nearly 400 Early Learning Centers Earn Spots on State Honor Roll](#)

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

New: Early Literacy Commission

[Senate Resolution 182](#) and [House Resolution 222](#) established the Early Literacy Commission to study and make recommendations on developing and implementing an aligned system to provide effective evidence-based reading instruction for children from birth through third grade. In January, the Early Literacy Commission will make its final recommendations to BESE and the Legislature.

The Early Literacy Commission met on October 14. During this meeting, the committee heard from a panel of educators who shared experiences and challenges in early literacy.

The remaining Early Literacy Commission meetings are listed below:

- November 20 (Small workgroups)
- [December 16](#) (Full panel meeting/Open Meeting /12:00–3:00 p.m., Thomas Jefferson Room)

Meeting materials and recordings are available on the [State Advisory Council](#) page.

Please contact laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions.

New: 2019 School Improvement Parent Meeting Survey

In the 2019 regular session, the Legislature updated and clarified the requirements for school systems relative to parent involvement in school improvement plans. School systems were required to present the 2019-2020 approved school improvement plans to families within 60 days of the start of the school year.

Schools should report the date of their School Improvement parent meetings via this [survey](#) no later than **December 1**. This data will be reported to the legislature in the spring.

Please contact districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Super App Office Hours

The Department launched the 2020-2021 School System Planning process and Super App on November 4. All Super App Launch materials are located 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.

Reminder: Updated School System Planning Calendar

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

- SEAP meeting dates

Please email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 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.

Assessment and Accountability

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

- Now–November 29: [PearsonAccessnext](#) (PANext) opens to manage participation, choose shipping dates, and verify the district secure shipping address for both spring 2020 ACT and WorkKeys.
- Now–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
 - **Completed:** 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

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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.

High School Pathways

New: 2020 Jump Start Convention Galleria Walk/School Exhibitions Application

Please share with CTE supervisors, administrators, and counselors.

The 3rd Annual Galleria Walk/School Exhibitions will be held during the 2020 Jump Start Convention on January 28. Due to limited space, approval for the 2020 Galleria Walk/School Exhibitions participants will be through a short application process sent to school systems who demonstrate:

- engagement for a wide diversity of students, in terms of background, interest, and disability;
- alignment to workforce needs with job placement for students;
- dedication to helping students attain culminating statewide credentials (IBCs);
- commitment to blurring the line between high school and post-secondary; and
- potential benefit of your Galleria Walk/School Exhibitions to other schools.

Those interested in applying to become a 2020 Galleria Walk/School Exhibition participant are asked to please complete the [online application](#) by **December 6**. Approved applicants will be notified via email by December 13 with further instructions and guidelines.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Louisiana Extension Academy

Please share with administrators.

On September 26, the Department of released a [Request for Application](#) (RFA) for 2020-2021 Extension Academies. The purpose of this innovation is to provide students, who are on track to graduate but not on track to participate in a low-cost postsecondary college or training program, with an additional year to attain a Regents-recognized associate degree, participate in a registered pre-apprenticeship, or attain an advanced Industry Based Credential (IBC).

The [RFA](#) priority deadline is **November 20 at 4:00 p.m.**

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 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

Reminder: 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 Double Tree 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.

Special Education

New: 2018-2019 Significant Disproportionality Results to Be Released

Each year, federal regulations require the Department to analyze the likelihood that students with disabilities from one race or ethnicity will be subject to a certain outcome (over identification, restrictive placement, or exclusionary discipline), relative to students with disabilities from all other races and ethnicities, in each school system across the state.

School systems can access their [significant disproportionality results 2018-2019](#) this **Friday, November 15**. If a school system is identified as significantly disproportionate, they must set aside 15 percent of their IDEA Part B funding for coordinated early intervening services (CEIS) in Super App for the 2020-2021 school year. Additional information about CEIS is [available](#).

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Data

New: October Quarterly Home Study Reports

The Quarterly Home Study Reports for October 2019 are available via the Data Management FTP (with user names ending in @datamgmt) in zipped files named *LEACode_LEAName_October2019HomeStudy* and will remain on the FTP until **February 1**.

Within the zipped file, there will be the following:

- Statewide enrollment numbers of SBESE-Approved Home Study students
- Detailed list of students from your LEA enrolled in Home Study program
- Each student's home study approval notification letter

Please contact sue.millican@la.gov with questions.

New: Oct 1 CLASS and CVR Overview Webinar

The Department is hosting an October 1 CLASS and CVR Overview Webinar on **November 18** to provide information to new data managers about how to review rosters in the CVR to ensure data is submitted accurately in the source systems (CUR, PEP, SIS). Information needed to join the webinar is listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 18 at 1:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/789638890>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646 876 9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 789 638 890

Please contact jayanthi.sothirajah@la.gov with questions.

New: HiSet Completer Files Available

HiSet completer files are available on the [eScholar FTP](#). A HiSet completer file is available for download for those school systems that have students, grades 7 through 12, who passed the HiSet and have a completed Louisiana Community and College System (LCTCS) data sharing agreement on file with the Department. Student data for these HiSet completers can be updated in SIS 2018-2019 EOY during the Dropout Correction period which ends on **December 2**.

Please contact barrett.adams@la.gov with questions.

Grants Management

New: FY 2019-2020 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application

The FY 2019-2020 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application is now available in the Department's electronic grants management system ([eGMS](#)). The submission deadline is **November 21**. Please review the EEF Application information under the Announcement section in [eGMS](#).

All applicants are encouraged to ensure EEF Contact Information and EEF Assurances have been completed and saved in the central data section in order to create the 2019-2020 EEF Application.

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

Reminder: High Cost Services Round 1 Application

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 submission deadline is **November 15** in [eGMS](#).

To learn more about the grant please see the [grant overview](#) and [state plan](#).

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

Federal Programs

New: Federal Program Updates Meeting

The Office of Federal Programs is holding a meeting to provide charter school systems with federal program updates and information. Presentations will include McKinney-Vento, foster care, supporting English learners, and Federal Programs updates, including information on the 2020-2021 Super App.

Meeting details and a link to registration are included below.

Date and Time	Location
November 18 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	Jefferson Parish School System 501 Manhattan Blvd Harvey, LA 70058

Please contact melanie.mayeux@la.gov with questions.

Safe and Healthy Schools

Reminder: 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.