



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

November 16, 2021

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Data Coordinator Office Hours	November 18 at 1 p.m.
P-EBT Data Managers Office Hours	November 23 at 10 a.m.
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	November 23 at 12 p.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	November 23 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	November 23 at 3:45
Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours	November 29 at 3:30 p.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	December 2 at 3 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
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	December 1 at 10 a.m.
Literacy Monthly Call	December 2 at 10 a.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	December 2 at 1 p.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	December 3 at 9 a.m.
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	December 7 at 1 p.m.
Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	December 8 at 11 a.m.
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	December 8 at 1 p.m.

BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	December 8 at 3 p.m.
Teaching and Learning Roundtable	December 10 at 11 a.m.
CLSD UIN Communities of Practice	December 12 at 11 a.m.
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	December 13 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	December 14 at 3:45 p.m.

**Monthly call presentations are available in the [School Improvement Library](#). View the [School System Support Calendar](#) to access a complete schedule of events.*

***Achieve! Incentive Round 2 and Super App application office hours and Q&A will take place during this call.*

Upcoming Events

Event Title	Zoom Link
Pre-Educator Pathway call	November 19
School Plan Family Engagement Survey	December 1
Early Literacy Commission	December 18

Operations

Federal Support and Grantee Relations

Reminder: Data Collection of Annual Counts/CSPR for Title I, Part D

Please share with Federal Program directors.

The Louisiana Department of Education is required to report SY2021-2022 Annual Counts (October Count) for Title I, Part D under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Data collected from the SY2021-2022 Annual Counts is used to determine funding for neglected and delinquent facilities.

The LEADS portal is now open for Annual Count data submission through December 10. CSPR (Tables 1- 5) data collection will take place for the SY2020-2021, through December 30. Title I Directors and Security Coordinators can enter the data in the LEADSPortal. <https://leads3.doe.louisiana.gov/PTL/>

This request is only for LEAs that receive a Title I, Part D allocation.

Please contact Edeltress.Brown@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Simulated School Performance Score (SPS) Release

The 2020-2021 simulated school performance scores will be released on December 3.

- Prior to release, school system leaders:
 - receive individual, unsuppressed school system and school-level performance scores via the FTP
 - participate in briefing calls with Assistant Superintendent Thomas Lambert around simulated SPS results for their respective school systems
- On the day of release:
 - School system leaders will participate in the regularly scheduled System Leaders call with Superintendent Cade Brumley
 - Simulated School Performance Scores are posted on LDOE website
 - Simulated SPS Appeal/Waiver Form is released in Accountability Library
- December 7: School Finder updated with 2020-2021 data, including simulated School Performance Scores.

K-3 Screener Referrals to Gifted

All school systems must report the number of students referred for gifted screening based on their performance of the literacy screener, with the literacy screener being at least one indicator used in consideration for gifted screening.

- December 3: Deadline for completion of the [Act 688 Survey](#). DTCs and Special Education Coordinators should work together to submit one form per school system.
- The department will present survey results to BESE.

LEAP 2025

- Window B Fall high school assessment administration will be open from January 5-24.
- Test setup for Window B of the LEAP Fall high school assessment administration will open on December 22 for participating schools.
- All accommodations on IEPs, IAPs and EL checklists must be final by December 5 for students who will test in Window B.

Office Hours

There will be no Office Hours call on November 23, 2021 in recognition of Thanksgiving week. Please enjoy this time with family and friends.

Career and College Readiness

Home Builders Institute's Schools to Skills Program

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

The [Home Builders Institute \(HBI\)](#), [The Home Depot Foundation](#) and the [National Housing Endowment](#) are committed to working with secondary educational institutions to support student access to school-based instructional programs and skills training in the residential building and construction trades. As part of this commitment, these organizations will provide financial assistance to schools new to HBI who **do not** use the [HBI Pre-apprenticeship Certification Training](#) (PACT) curriculum and are unable to fund the start-up costs to license the PACT curriculum. The deadline to apply for the [grant opportunity](#) is December 10.

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

School System Relations

Celebrating Excellence!

On Monday, November 15, Dr. Cade Brumley and the Louisiana Department of Education held a special ceremony honoring Rapides Parish Schools as a Louisiana Models of Excellence recipient. The [Louisiana Models of Excellence](#) is a statewide award that recognizes schools and school systems that serve as a state model in meeting one of the Louisiana Department of Education's [Believe to Achieve](#) priorities.

Rapides Parish Schools was nominated for this award by the Teaching and Learning department for their pre-educator pathway based on the priority of developing and retaining a diverse, highly-effective educator workforce. Under the Department's guidance, [pre-educator pathways](#) were designed to cultivate highly skilled educators by guiding young people on a path to becoming accomplished teachers, beginning in high school and extending through college and into the profession. Rapides Parish Schools was named a Models of Excellence recipient for their district level strategy for implementing a pre-educator pathway, collaboration between schools and LSUA, and for their clinical experiences for future educators.

Following the ceremony, guests and educational stakeholders were invited to learn more about the pre-educator pathway program.

For questions, please contact modelsofexcellence@la.gov.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools

Please share with administrators.

The Department is accepting applications from schools and school systems seeking nomination for the [U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools \(EDGRS\) awards](#), which aims to inspire schools and districts to strive for 21st-century excellence by highlighting promising school sustainability practices and resources that all can employ. Successful applications will provide a narrative that demonstrates the three EDGRS pillars:

- Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs,
- Improved Health and Wellness, and
- Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education.

Applications should be submitted in Word or PDF format by January 18, 2022.

Please contact environmentaleducation@la.gov with questions or to submit an application.

ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020) Updates

Please share with ELA supervisors, administrators, and K-12 ELA teachers

[Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks 9-12 \(2020\) Pilot Overview document](#) has been updated to include the most recent information about the 9-12 units on the [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#). The Photojournalism unit for grade 9 will be available on the Louisiana Curriculum Hub by January 1, 2022. Three new ELA Guidebooks 9-12 units will be released by April 2022: Bioethics (10th grade), Film In America (11th grade), and In the Time of the Butterflies (12th grade).

The Department is also soliciting teacher feedback through [Louisiana ELA Guidebooks 9-12 Feedback Form](#) for the units being implemented this year. Please encourage educators to bookmark this link for use throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: Episode 17 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 17 Summary: Effective Tutoring Practices with Dr. Carly Robinson

Dr. Carly Robinson, a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Annenberg Institute at Brown University, shares the research and best practices school systems should use in their tutoring strategy this year to address unfinished learning from COVID-19. Haughton Elementary School in Bossier Parish is spotlighted during the What's Making Me Smile segment for their fun and engaging instruction.

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.

Leader Evaluations

Last week, guidance was issued for finalizing [2020-2021 Leader Student Learning Targets \(SLTs\)](#). This guidance is also available in the [Compass Library](#). CIS will be open for leader uploads beginning in mid-December and close mid-January. School System CIS administrators can begin to prepare for leader evaluation uploads using the spreadsheet found in CIS in the evaluation tab.

Please contact compass@la.gov with further questions.

Principal Webinar Series

In November's webinar, the focus will be assessing equity in schools. The session will be led by Amy Hoyle with the School Leadership Center and Malekah Morgan with LDOE.

- Webinar Date/Time: November 29 from 2 - 4 p.m.
- Webinar Link:
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94171949379?pwd=b3d3SVRHc25zL3RWdzlyNy9Pb3BYQT09>
- Meeting ID: 941 7194 9379
- Passcode: 216254

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with any questions.

Principal Newsletter

The next monthly Principal Newsletter will be released on **November 18**. The principal newsletter provides an opportunity to recognize outstanding principals in your school/school system. Take a minute to send a shout-out of appreciation to a colleague who is a building-level leader using this [survey link](#). This note of appreciation will be included in our next monthly newsletter.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with any questions.

Staffing and Scheduling Initiative

The [Staffing and Scheduling](#) guidance document has been updated to 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
Job Alike Support Session for Counselors & 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

The month's [Louisiana Acceleration Series](#) session is **Planning for Accelerated Learning Options and Individualized Learning**. During this session, participants will examine models for grouping students and plan for the incorporation of accelerated learning in core instruction, small group, and individual instruction. The target audience for this session is school and district leadership teams.

For a complete list of training dates and locations and to register, visit [NIET.org](#). Educators can receive a certificate upon completion of each training.

Planning for Accelerated Learning Options and Individualized Learning	
Wednesday, November 17	In person, Shreveport
Thursday, November 18	Virtual
Monday, November 22	Virtual
Tuesday, November 23	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
- career pipeline support.

All schools in Louisiana can [register](#) to attend this professional development [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.

Teacher Leader Summit

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 LDOEevents@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

National Family Literacy Month: Activities to Share with Families

November is National Family Literacy Month and schools are encouraged to share the following ideas and activities with their families:

- Read every day! For [babies](#) and [toddlers](#), short books with rhythmic patterns and rhyming words are fun. This can be a special time to bond with your child and help develop their language skills.
- To expand literacy skills, use sign language. Learn and use signs for words your child may need to communicate (more, drink, go etc.).
- Make stories together. [Encourage your child](#) to “tell stories” to you. Write their story down for them in a booklet (just a few pages of stapled paper is fine!), and have them illustrate their story.
- For your [school-age children](#), build a home library! Include books about topics your child is interested in, popular book series, and also books that may be unfamiliar to your child to expand interests.
- For your school-age children, especially [middle and high schoolers](#), read together! Establish a family culture of reading by designating times for all family readers to read.

Check out other ideas for Building Literacy Skills at Home in the [Literacy Library](#) and share them with families.

Please contact lisa.holliday@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- **Operations**
 - ***Federal Support and Grantee Relations***
- **Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics**
- **Career and College Readiness**
- **Teaching and Learning**
 - ***Academic Content***
 - ***Educator Development***
 - ***Literacy***

Operations

Federal Support and Grantee Relations

November is National Family Engagement Month

Please share with Parent and Family Engagement Coordinators.

Governor John Bel Edwards issued a [state proclamation](#) acknowledging November as Family Engagement Month in the State of Louisiana. This is a time to recognize and celebrate the important role of families in the education and well-being of their children. It is an opportunity for families, schools and the community to reflect upon how to promote and strengthen family engagement.

In celebration of Family Engagement Month, LDOE has launched the BE ENGAGED Initiative, which consists of a number of activities and initiatives to ignite and support family engagement. LEAs can continue to promote Family Engagement during the month of November three ways:

1. Share the requested/provided [videos](#) on various platforms such as social media or school websites to encourage families to BE ENGAGED. Remember to get necessary permissions.
2. Promote "Tell Us Something Good" Share your story: Invite families to share an experience on social media or with a local newspaper about their child's teacher/school that highlights their welcoming attitude and enthusiasm in working with families to create a positive experience for students.
3. Post parent and family engagement pictures on social media/school websites and use the hashtag BE ENGAGED.

For more information about the BE ENGAGED Initiative please visit the website at www.louisianabelieves.com/beengaged or contact the State Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator, Dr. Antiqua Hunter at antiqua.hunter@la.gov.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Interests and Opportunities Survey

- Principals and school system accountability contacts received notification regarding the 2021-2022 Interests and Opportunities Survey along with a unique access code.
- The survey will be open for completion and submission from November 15 through December 17
- The Interests and Opportunities Index, which is 5% of the school performance score, will not be hold-harmless in 2022.

ACT

- Previous ACT data sharing agreements expired, and all school systems need to submit an updated agreement as soon as possible.

LEAP 2025

- Additional materials requests are now being accepted in DRC INSIGHT for sites administering LEAP 2025 high school assessments during Window A: November 30-December 17
- LEAP 2025 high school testing schedules for Window A are due to assessment@la.gov.

Assessment and Accountability Office Hours

- November 23: Office Hours Cancelled

Career and College Readiness

Build Your Future's "I Built This!" Contest

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

Build Your Future is holding a nationwide video contest titled "I BUILT THIS!" This competition invites construction craft students and trainees to showcase their building projects. Requirements of the videos:

- Projects must be relevant to construction or maintenance.
- Proper safety practices are followed.
- Maximum of 3 minutes in length.
- Contains a speaking/voiceover element, including at least one student.
- Projects must be completed in 2021.

High school career and technical education students are eligible to [enter](#) this contest.

For more information, please contact troy.borne@la.gov.

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 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](#) until November 30. A [crosswalk](#) of the 2011 Louisiana studies standards and the 2021 draft Louisiana Social Studies Standards has been released and can be found in the [Standards Review Committee Library](#).

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Paraprofessional to Teacher Program

On Monday, November 1 the Department hosted a webinar for school systems and participants interested in enrolling in REACH University: a hybrid, virtual opportunity for paraprofessionals and other school based personnel to earn their Bachelor's Degree and teaching certification. In order for participants to apply to the program, school systems must have an MOU partnership in place with REACH University. This partnership comes at no cost to the school system.

For more information contact Blake Noel, бноel@reach.edu, Dean of Students, at REACH University.

Pre-Educator Pathway

The next Pre-Educator Pathway statewide check-in will be held on **November 19**. All system leaders, school leaders, CTE coordinators, and college counselors connected to Grow Your Own work are encouraged to attend this check-in as we will discuss and share updates related to the pathway and continue to highlight best practices for establishing a strong regional Grow Your Own program.

- **Webinar Date/Time:** November 19, 12-1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3455048179>
- **Webinar Phone number:** 1-470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID:** 345 504 8179

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

National Family Literacy Month: Building Skills at Home

In honor of November being National Family Literacy Month, the Department is releasing a series of activities that families can do at home to build literacy skills. These one-page resources are organized by age groups and offer ideas for customized, fun, simple literacy activities. They can be found under Resources for Families in the [Literacy Library](#), but for extra convenience, the individual links are provided below. They will be translated into Louisiana students' native languages, so continue to check the Literacy Library for updated resources. Teachers and leaders are encouraged to share these resources with families by sending them home, informing families of the Literacy Library, or adding them to site-based family centers.

Building Literacy Skills at Home for:

- [Newborn to Infant](#)
- [Toddlers](#)
- [Preschool to Early Elementary](#)
- [Upper Elementary](#)
- [Middle and High School](#)

Please contact lisa.holliday@la.gov with questions.

CLSD Office Hours Postponed

The monthly office hours for CLSD CIR/UIR-A and UIN schools are postponed until January due to the upcoming holiday season. CLSD CIR-UIR-A Office Hours will resume on January 5, 2022 at 11 a.m., and CLSD UIN Office Hours will resume on January 7, 2022 at 11 a.m. The monthly CLSD UIN Communities of Practice will still occur on November 12, 2021 and December 10, 2021 at 11 a.m. and continue in 2022.

CLSD UIN Communities of Practice

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/93019040336>

Meeting ID: 930 1904 0336

Passcode: 7Pb3Dc

Please contact catasha.edwards@la.gov with questions.

Science of Reading Office Hours Update

The Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours switched to bi-weekly beginning November 15, 2021. Teachers and school leaders are encouraged to join the conversation and ask questions about effective implementation and literacy best practices.

Zoom Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96153652200>

Meeting ID: 961 5365 2200

Passcode: literacy

Call-in #: 312-626-6799

Please contact sarah.stohlman@la.gov with questions.