



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Dec 6, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

We recently released [statewide data from the reading screeners](#) given to K-3 students during the first 30 days of school. When comparing this school year to last year, first, second, and third grade scores improved. These are positive signs. Unfortunately, kindergarten scores are below last year's cohort. This indicates kindergarten readiness was lower on this particular skill. We have so much work to do, but I'm seeing great energy across the state.

In last week's newsletter message, I shared that I had been listening to *Sold A Story* by Emily Hanford. It chronicles several mishaps, missteps, misdirections, and mistakes in reading instruction over the last few decades. This is a good podcast to consider if you're on the lookout for a new series.

I'm hopeful that you find time to rest over the holiday season. This week, I want to share a [reading list compiled by Emily Hanford](#) for those seeking to learn more beyond her podcast. Maybe you will find your next read on her list!

As we turn the corner into 2023, let's ensure our reading resources and practices are sound and guided by the science of reading.

Have a great week,

Dr. Cade Brumley

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- 2023-24 Louisiana Scholarship Program School Application Webinar: [December 5 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Child Welfare and Attendance/Louisiana Attendance Alliance Monthly Call: [December 7 at 8 a.m.](#)
- [Alternative Education Monthly Call](#): [December 7 at 10 a.m.](#)
- [Teaching and Learning Monthly Call](#): [December 7 at 1 p.m.](#)
- BESE-Authorized Charter Schools Monthly Call: [December 8 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [December 8 at 9 a.m.](#)
- [Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call](#): December 13, 3:45 p.m.
- Local Authorizer Call: [December 14 at 11 a.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Business Manager Monthly Call: [December 14 at 2 p.m.](#)
- [Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call](#): December 15 at 10 a.m.
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [December 15 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [January 24 at 3 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Computer Science Education Week: December 5-9
- 2023-2024 Louisiana Scholarship Program Parent Application Webinar: [December 6 at 2 p.m.](#)
- LSSSS Social Studies Webinar on High School U.S. History and Civics: [December 8 at 3:30 p.m.](#)
- Teacher and Principal of the Year Candidate Call: [December 14 at 4 p.m.](#)
- *New Teacher of the Year* Informational Overview for Candidates: [December 14 at 4 p.m.](#)
- Zearn [Contact Form update](#): December 16
- Registration for [New Teacher Experience Affinity Groups](#) closes: December 19
- Teacher and Principal of the Year Candidate Call: [December 29 at 9 a.m.](#)
- [2023-2024 Louisiana Scholarship Program Application Open](#): December 12 - January 27, 2023
- Teacher and Principal of the Year Candidate Call: [January 9, 2023 at 4 p.m.](#)
- K-12 Computer Science Education [listening sessions](#) January 9 -18, 2023
- 2023 Jump Start Convention and Child Welfare and Attendance Summit: February 8, 2023

Assessment, Accountability and Analytics

LEAP 2025

Please share with test coordinators.

- December 16: Window A fall high school test voids due to assessment@la.gov
- December 21: Test coordinators can begin to assign students to test sessions and print test tickets for fall high school Window B opening on January 5.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

LEAP Connect

Please share with test coordinators and special education supervisors.

- January 11: LEAP Connect administration webinar for district test coordinators
 - Join Zoom Meeting: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97844598355>
 - Meeting ID: 978 4459 8355
 - One tap mobile
 - +14703812552,,97844598355# US (Atlanta)

- +13126266799,,97844598355# US (Chicago)
- January 13: Deadline for finalizing all accommodations on IEPs, IAPs and EL checklists for LEAP Connect participants. This includes eligibility for LEAP Connect.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

ACT

Please share with test coordinators.

- Please select test dates for ACT as soon as possible.
 - March 7, 2023 indicates the start of the first window
 - March 21, 2023 indicates the start of window 2.
 - Students can test in any window but the recommendation is to use the first window to test as many students as possible and use the second window for students who missed the first window.
- December 7 – Window opens for site readiness for Online testing of ACT. All resources for this task are located on the [ACT State Testing](#) site under Step 2: Configuration, Complete Site Readiness for Online Testing.
- December 7: ACT Accommodations Webinar /[Registration](#)

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

English Learner Assessments

Please share with test coordinators and English learner supervisors.

- Now Available: The [ELPT Connect Test Administration Manual](#) is now available on the [Louisiana ELPT Portal](#). Also available on the portal are:
 - Online Tools Training for both ELPT and ELPT Connect
 - ELPT Summative Assessment Number of Tasks and Questions Chart
 - Test Delivery System (TDS) Summative Training Module
 - ELPT and ELPT Tool Buttons
- January 5: Deadline to request exemptions for listening and/or speaking domains; no exemptions will be granted for the reading or writing domains. The [ELPT Request For Exemption Form](#) must be completed and returned to assessment@la.gov.
- January 13: Deadline for finalizing all accommodations on IEPs, IAPs and checklists. This includes identification for alternate assessment to qualify for ELPT Connect.
- January 18: ELPT and ELPT Connect administration webinar for district test coordinators
 - Join Zoom Meeting: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93628053724>
 - Meeting ID: 936 2805 3724
 - One tap mobile
 - +14703812552,,93628053724# US (Atlanta)
 - +13126266799,,93628053724# US (Chicago)

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

HiSET Completion List

Please share with accountability contacts.

A HiSET completer list has been provided to districts on the eScholar ftp. Accountability contacts should work with counselors and data managers to correctly exit students from enrollment using the exit code for HiSET completion to avoid submitting corrections during the cohort graduation data certification period. Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

SPS Appeals/Waivers

Please share with district accountability contacts.

The SPS Appeals/Waiver form is due no later than December 9. Per BESE policy, an appeal or waiver cannot be requested based on data that could have been corrected during a data certification period. Forms with original superintendent signatures must be delivered to Jennifer Baird at the address provided on the form.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

NCCER ICTP/Core Instructor Training

Share with CTE supervisors, principals, counselors, and secondary supervisors.

NCCER ICTP/Core teacher certification will be held December 12 - 16. The class will be instructed by NCCER Master Trainer Chance Plaisance. The master trainer will work with craft instructors to complete performance profiles. The cost of the certification class for ICTP/Core is \$700.00. 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 to [Troy Borne](#). Documentation of skill may be any or all of the following:

- Resume with experience in craft, or teaching experience in craft requested, including professional contacts to verify experience in requested craft area(s)
- Diploma with transcript from postsecondary institution in requested craft area(s)

Submit requests for training and documentation to troy.borne@la.gov.

2023 Jump Start Convention and Child Welfare and Attendance Summit

Please share with CTE personnel, school counselors, middle and high school administrators, and CWA personnel.

The 2023 Jump Start Convention and CWA Summit will be held on February 8, 2022 at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge. Convention [registration is currently open](#), and will close on **January 11 or when capacity is reached**.

CWA Summit registration is open but limited to Child Welfare and Attendance (CWA) directors, supervisors, and attendance stakeholders and community liaisons (i.e., law enforcement, members of the judiciary, etc.). For information on how to register for the CWA Summit, please contact Shelneka Adams at shelneka.adams@la.gov.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

2022-2023 Graduate Diploma and Seal Orders

Please share with principals, school counselors, and data coordinators.

Please use the [Diploma and Seal Order Form](#) to submit an order for the 2022-2023 graduates. All diploma requests must be submitted through the electronic form by February 3. Only one form should be completed for each school system. The Department will cover the costs for the initial order and distribution. Please contact transcripts@la.gov with questions.

Pupil Progression Plan Addendum

Please share with school system administrators.

An update was approved to Bulletin 1566 during the October 2022 BESE meeting regarding a literacy support standard for grades 3 and 4. School systems are asked to provide the [assurance addendum](#) to their board for approval. The addendum should be submitted to ppp@la.gov by **January 31, 2023**.

Please contact ppp@la.gov with any questions.

Office of Career and College Readiness Monthly Call

Please share with system leaders, secondary supervisors, CTE supervisors, and school counselors.

Due to the holiday schedule, the next monthly call is scheduled for December 15 at 3 p.m.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 15 at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91356229413>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346-248-7799
- **Meeting ID:** 913 5622 9413
- **Passcode:** 768040

Please contact erica.spencer@la.gov with questions

Well-Being Community of Practice Monthly Call: Canceled for December

Please share with child welfare, counselors, well-being leaders, and mental health specialists.

Please note that the Well-Being division will not host a Well-Being Community of Practice call for the month of December. The next call is scheduled for January 18, 2023.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 18, 2023; 9:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93424398640>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID:** 934-2439-8640
- **Meeting Passcode:** 202223

Please contact rachel.bunch@la.gov with questions.

System Relations

Louisiana's Teacher/Principal and New Teacher of the Year

Please share with teachers and school leaders.

The Teacher/Principal and New Teacher of the Year application process for the 2022-2023 school year is open. All application materials and timelines are available in the [Library](#) on the [Awards](#) page.

All school systems are encouraged to select up to three teachers, three principals, and three *new* teachers (with less than one year teaching experience), one per division (elementary, middle, and high) as their local-level honorees and submit these selections to the state process. School systems without a formal selection process in place may elect to send their candidates directly to the state-level process.

State-level applications must be submitted via the online portal **by January 11, 2023**.

The Department will host informational Zoom calls to share details regarding this year's Teacher/Principal and New Teacher of the Year process. The dates and times of webinars are listed in the [Informational Webinars for Candidates and Stakeholders document](#).

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions about Teacher/Principal of the Year; contact laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions about New Teacher of the Year.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

K-2 ELA/Literacy Instructional Materials Update **Please share with content supervisors and administrators.**

This summer legislators passed a [law](#) to ensure that all textbooks and instructional materials used to teach students to read are scientifically researched with proven results in teaching phonological awareness, letter formation, phonics, decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

The Department required publishers to submit their materials for re-review to ensure compliance with this [law](#). The following titles were not submitted by publishers for re-review: [ARC Core, Grades K-2, IRLA Foundational Skills Toolkit, Grades K-2 \(FS Only\)](#), and [Language Arts 1 A/B, Gr 1](#). Therefore, these instructional materials have been removed from the [Tiered Reviews](#) webpage and added to the [Not Reviewed for Compliance Under Act 517](#) report. These materials are no longer considered Tier 1.

The Department recommends that school systems engage in a [local review process](#) of their instructional materials to ensure that they **require students to draw on their phonics knowledge to decode words and do not prompt students to use cues** such as looking at the picture or drawing on context to identify words. Classroom instruction and practice should be modified to remove any and all use of three-cueing, MSV, etc. Examples of three cueing include instructing students to memorize sight words, pre-teaching words using context clues (often pictures), using predictable texts that often rely on pictures, and using images with a main focus on the first letter of the word.

K-3 school leaders and teachers can find additional support on literacy instruction from their [science of reading training](#) and resources in the [literacy library](#). Additional information about instructional materials re-reviews will be provided in future communications.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Instructional Support: Instructional Material Reviews **Please share with content supervisors and administrators.**

Newly rated Tier 1 instructional materials include McGraw Hill ELA, Great Minds Science, and Houghton Mifflin Math. All tiered reviews can be found on the [Annotated Reviews](#) webpage; the status of all instructional materials submissions can be found in the [Weekly Report](#).

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Zearn Accounts and Related Professional Learning for All LA Public Schools K-8 Beginning in January

Please share with math content supervisors, administrators and K-8 math teachers.

As part of the [Louisiana Math Refresh](#), the Department is partnering with [Zearn](#) to provide Zearn school accounts, which will be activated in January 2023, to all public schools serving K-8 students. To ensure timely account set up, **all systems**, including those currently using Zearn math, must **complete the [contact form](#) by December 16**.

Professional learning (PL) registration is now open to support teachers and leaders in successful implementation. Please see the [PD for Louisiana Educators flier](#) for information about the December and January virtual sessions for math teachers, support teachers/ tutors, math coaches, and master teachers. See the [Professional Development for Leaders: Accelerating Impact with Zearn flier](#) for details on the regional, onsite opportunities for principals, CAOs, math curriculum supervisors and coaches.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

Inclusive Schools Week

Please share with special education administrators and educators.

Join the Department in celebrating Inclusive Schools Week December 5 – 9, 2023. The Inclusive Schools Network (ISN) designed Inclusive Schools Week to celebrate the progress that schools have made in providing a supportive and quality education to diverse learners. Visit the [Inclusive Schools](#) website for more details about this year's theme, "Unity within our community."

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

April Dunn Act Training

Please share with special education leaders.

The Department will host a series of virtual trainings on effective April Dunn Act implementation. The first training, *Creating Local April Dunn Act Procedures*, is scheduled for December 14.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 14 at 4:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92758866910>
- **Phone Number:** (312) 626-6799
- **Meeting ID:** 927 5886 6910

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learner Office Monthly Office Hours

Please share with special education leaders.

The Diverse Learner Division will begin hosting monthly office hours to discuss topics relating to supporting diverse learners. The first call is scheduled for January 24.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 24 at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99463888239>

- **Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID #:** 994 6388 8239
- **Passcode:** 311142

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Tactile Communication Workshop

Please share with assistive technology supervisors, special education administrators and educators.

Louisiana Accessible Education Materials (AEM) will be hosting a workshop on the use of tactile symbols to support communication with students who are non-verbal. The session will cover designing and implementing tactile symbols in everyday curriculum and in all educational settings.

- **Workshop Date and Time:** January 24, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- **Workshop Location:** AEM Center, 2888 Brightside Dr., Baton Rouge
- [Baton Rouge Registration](#)
- **Workshop Date and Time:** February 10, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- **Workshop Location:** Louisiana Center for the Blind, 101 S. Trenton St., Ruston
- [Ruston Workshop Registration](#)

Please contact nabiha.mujahid@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

January Summit Extension Registration

Please share with superintendents and senior cabinet members.

To extend critical learning from the Teacher Leader Summit, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) launched 2022-2023 Summit Extensions. These half-day events for school system leaders focus on implementation of the Professional Learning Roadmap, which underpins the state's Vision for Success. The January Extensions will focus on supporting system-level ILTs in implementing Louisiana's literacy and math strategies as a system-level instructional leadership team.

Attendees at the Summit Extension should be the same team that attended the November Extensions. Opening on December 7, registration is on a first come, first served basis. Please see the [Summit Extensions Overview](#) for details and registration links for sessions in Lafayette, Shreveport, and Baton Rouge.

Please contact event@emergentmethod.com with questions about this event.

Principal's Webinar Series: Literacy

Please share with principals and principal supervisors.

In November, the Department held a webinar highlighting effective literacy practices through the lens of a school leader. Led by the Executive Director of the Literacy Division, Shanna Beber, this webinar focused on improving literacy outcomes for all students in Louisiana through Louisiana's Literacy Pillars. The [slide deck](#) of the webinar can be found in the [Principal Support Library](#). Please reach out to louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring Program

Please share with school and system literacy leaders.

The Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring Program will begin next week! All K-5 public school students who are reading below proficiency will be eligible for a \$1,000 digital tutoring voucher. School systems should have already compiled a list of eligible K-5 students.

Eligibility Criteria

Grades K-3: students who scored below proficient on the beginning of the year early literacy screener

Grades 4-5: students who scored below Mastery on the ELA portion LEAP in Spring 2022

Additional information can be found on the [Louisiana Tutoring Initiative](#) website and in the Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring Program section of the [Literacy Instruction, Intervention, and Extension Library](#).

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Local Literacy Plan Guidance

Please share with school and system literacy leaders.

A complete set of step-by-step webinars are available in the [Literacy Goals Library](#) to support systems and schools with the development, implementation, and monitoring of literacy goals based around the four Louisiana Literacy Pillars: setting and monitoring literacy goals, ensuring explicit instruction, intervention, and extensions, providing ongoing professional growth opportunities, and engaging families in literacy development. Literacy plans can be submitted through the Super App portal.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Sample Literacy Activity Videos

Please share with teachers and paraprofessionals.

Brief exemplar videos of Louisiana teachers have been added to the [Literacy Instruction, Intervention, and Extension Library](#) to provide teachers and support staff with quick examples of how to engage in literacy activities. The new topics include [Blending, Blending with Phonological Awareness Support, and How to Use a Sound Wall](#). Teachers are invited to submit their own videos to louisianaliteracy@la.gov for review and use in the Literacy Library. Videos for any type of evidence-based literacy activity are encouraged. Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.