



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

December 7, 2021

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Data Coordinator Office Hours	December 9 at 1 p.m.
April Dunn Act Office Hours	December 9 at 4:30 p.m.
Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours	December 13 at 3:30 p.m.
P-EBT Data Managers Office Hours	December 14 at 10 a.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	December 14 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	December 14 at 3:45
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	December 16 at 3 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
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.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	December 9 at 1 p.m.
SPED Leader Monthly Call	December 9 at 2 p.m.
Teaching and Learning Roundtable	December 10 at 11 a.m.
CLSD UIN Communities of Practice	December 10 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.
Nonpublic Monthly Call	December 15 at 2 p.m.
Education Technology Monthly Call	December 16 at 9 a.m.
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call**	December 16 at 10 a.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	December 16 at 3 p.m.

Nutrition Support Monthly Call	January 4 at 1 p.m.
System Leaders Monthly Call	January 7 at 9 a.m.
<p><i>*Monthly call presentations are available in the School Improvement Library. View the School System Support Calendar to access a complete schedule of events.</i></p> <p><i>**Achieve! Incentive Round 2 and Super App application office hours and Q&A will take place during this call.</i></p>	
Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
Early Literacy Commission	December 8 at 12 p.m.
Teacher and Principal of the Year Coordinator’s Informational Overview	December 10 at 9:30 a.m.
Teacher and Principal of the Year Candidate’s Informational Overview	December 14 at 4:30
Upcoming Deadlines	
Reimagine School Systems Grant Initiative Application	December 16
Leader Evaluation Score Upload window in CIS closes	January 7

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

ELPT Trajectory Targets for 2022

Please share with accountability contacts and EL directors.

On December 3, the department posted post-data certification rosters on the ftp. Included among the files was the ELPT Progress Roster that was updated to include new 2022 targets for students. For information about targets, please see the [EL Frequently Asked Questions document](#).

LEAP 2025 High School Administration

Please share with district test coordinators.

- Schools and systems that are participating in LEAP 2025 High School Window A should send updated schedules when changes are made to assessment@la.gov.
- Please send all voids by December 17 to assessment@la.gov.
- Schools and systems that are participating in LEAP 2025 High School Window B should have already completed any changes to accommodations on an IEP, IAP or EL checklist by December 5, 30 days prior to the opening of the testing window.

Career and College Readiness

2021-2022 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 2021-2022 graduates. All diploma requests must be submitted through the electronic form by February 4. Only one form should be completed for each school system. The Department will cover the costs for the initial order and distribution.

For more information, please contact megan.thompson2@la.gov.

School System Relations

Reimagine School Systems Grant Initiative

Please share with school and district leadership teams

The Reimagine School Systems Grant Initiative application is due on December 16. In order to assist with completing the application, the following resources have been created:

- Reimagine School Systems Grant Initiative Resources [click here](#), which includes -
 - Key Criteria for Success
 - Key Challenges
 - Key Sustainability Concerns
 - Key Change Management Considerations
 - Key Planning Milestones Required to Access Implementation Funds
 - It also has a link to a [Reimagine School Actions for Louisiana School Systems Quiz](#)

- Reimagine School Systems Initiative Application and Interview Rubric [click here](#)

Please contact systemrelations@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Educator Development

Principal Webinar Series

Please share with school leaders, school counselors, and parent and family engagement liaisons

In December's webinar, the LDOE will partner with The New Teacher Project for this month's topic of parent and community involvement in schools.

- Webinar Date/Time: December 13 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

Please share with school leaders

The monthly Principal Newsletter will be released on **December 16**. Sign up [here](#) to receive the principal newsletter.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with any questions.

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: Episode 19 Released

Please share with all educators, including: school system leaders, school leaders, and teacher leaders.

[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 19 Summary: Annelise Cassar Tedesco, Louisiana's 2022 State Teacher of the Year, talks about the Performing Arts Academy she co-founded, the Arts Strong series she created, and the innovative work she is implementing with her arts classes.

The Livingston Parish Virtual-Hybrid Program is featured during the What's Making Me Smile segment for their hands-on, engaging experiences for students on campus.

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.

School Improvement Best Practices

Please share with school and district leadership teams

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

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

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.

School systems should complete this [form](#) to indicate the training they anticipate their schools will participate in. Upon receipt of the form, NIET will connect with the school system contact to begin planning. Completing the form does not commit you to selecting these trainings, but it helps to inform the planning with NIET.

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

Teacher Leader Summit

Please share with all educators, including: school system leaders, school leaders, principals, school counselors, teacher leaders, and data coordinators.

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.

Acceleration Professional Development

Please share with school and district leadership teams

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.

The next session in the [Louisiana Acceleration Series](#) is Strengthening Content-Specific Strategies for Learning Recovery in Math. During this session, participants will identify skills critical to student mastery of math standards and will deconstruct those in order to scaffold and segment accelerated learning. Participants will develop thinking strategies that support student mastery of critical skills and define ways to incorporate techniques for increasing student engagement and student ownership of learning. The target audience for this session is math teachers and 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, December 8	Virtual
Thursday, December 9	Virtual
Monday, December 13	Virtual
Tuesday, December 14	Virtual
Wednesday, December 15	Virtual
Thursday, December 16	In person - Baton Rouge

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

Summer Learning Programs

Please share with school and district leadership teams

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.

Literacy

Holiday Literacy Activities

Please share with all educators

In the spirit of the holidays, the LDOE Literacy Division is releasing a [list of quick and easy holiday-themed literacy activities](#) that can be done at school or at home. This link is exclusively available through this newsletter and LDOE social media. Teachers are encouraged to try a few activities in their classrooms and share the ideas with families.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- *Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics*
- *Career and College Readiness*
- *School System Relations*
- *Teaching and Learning*
 - *Academic Content*
 - *Educator Development*

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Release of 2021 Simulated School Performance Scores

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

- Prior to release, district Superintendents:
 - receive individual, unsuppressed school system and school-level performance scores via email
 - 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 Leader 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.

Please contact jennifer.baird@la.gov with questions.

Test Security for LEAP 2025 LEAP Fall High School

- Test security is extremely important to assure valid and reliable measures of student performance. District test coordinators are responsible for providing training for STCs, who in turn must train all school staff participating in test administration.
- The department provides resources for test security at this link: <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/assessment>.
- All test security policy is in Bulletin 118, and it is reinforced in test coordinator and test administrator manuals.

ACT 688 Survey

- All school systems are mandated by statute to 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.
- The department will collect this information using the [Act 688 Survey](#). DTCs and Special Education Coordinators should work together to submit one form per school system.
- The deadline for completion of the survey is Friday, December 3. These data will be reported to BESE.

Career and College Readiness

2022 Jump Start Convention

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

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

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

School System Relations

Teacher and Principal of the Year Informational Calls

Please share with TOY & POY candidates and LEA coordinators

State-level Teacher and Principal of the Year applications are due on **January 12, 2022**. All applications and materials may be found in the [resources library](#) on the [Awards page website](#).

To assist candidates and coordinators with the application process, informational calls and office hours will be conducted in December 2021 and January 2022. On these calls, information will be shared about the timeline/process, as well as steps for using the online portals. Additionally, tips and pointers for creating a strong state-level application will be shared and there will be time for questions to be answered.

See [here](#) for information regarding the times and dates of these Informational Calls.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Social Studies Standards Review Update

Please share with social studies supervisors, administrators, and K-12 social studies teachers

A reminder that the public comment on the revised K-12 social studies standards will close today, November 30. All stakeholders are encouraged to comment on individual standards using the [online form](#) until November 30. Questions about how to complete this form? See the [Public Comment FAQ's](#).

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

New Teacher of the Year Award Launch

Please share with TOY and POY LEA coordinators

For years, the Department has been honoring outstanding educators across the state through the Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year programs. The LDOE is excited to announce the addition of a new award program: **New** Teacher of the Year. This program will recognize the outstanding contributions of first year classroom teachers. To be eligible for this award, teachers must have less than one year of experience teaching full time at the time the application is due. Please join us to learn more about this exciting new award program by joining one of the webinars below.

Webinar Name: New Teacher of the Year Overview

Webinar date/time: Wednesday, December 8 at 3 p.m.

Webinar link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98285738711?pwd=THY1L25mTGvKzY0UzZOQ3hjZVVwQT09>

Meeting ID: 982 8573 8711

Passcode: 012034

Phone number: 1-470-250-9358

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