

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



December 11, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

For as much as our schools and colleges of education have done to improve undergraduate teacher preparation programs in recent years, our industry, like many, is moving toward nontraditional certification pathways in order to meet the need for classroom talent. We will continue to see large numbers of new teacher candidates coming to us from other industries and from academic majors other than education.

There are school systems in our state today that rely nearly exclusively on alternative certification programs for new teacher recruitment and preparation. Alternative certification preparation experiences in Louisiana thus must evolve to meet the needs of a system in which they play an increasing role. Most notably, alternative certification teachers are required to have roughly two weeks of experience in the classroom prior to being placed on their own as full-time teachers. This very often means that students in rural and low-income urban schools are being taught by promising but under-experienced individuals. No parent wants this for her child.

Fortunately, rather than waiting for state guidance to evolve, some rural parishes have developed models that provide radically increased amounts of teaching practice for first-year, alternatively certified teachers. These models, detailed in a [report](#) released last week, create time during every school week for new, alternatively certified teachers to co-teach alongside experienced mentors. The model looks different from place to place, and the report details a number of individual cases in different parishes. Sometimes, the co-teacher is an experienced teacher within the school. Sometimes, the co-teacher travels from one school to another. However, in each case, the model is based on the simple idea that it is only fair to teachers and to children for new teachers to have had significant practice teaching before becoming full-time teachers. These innovative school systems, and these entrepreneurial schools, are proving that we need not accept a false dichotomy between quality preparation and cost-efficiency. We can do both if we are willing to develop a new alternative certification model to meet new needs for preparation. Guidance on how rural school systems can implement this model will be released in a toolkit in January, and at the upcoming Supervisor Collaborations.

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

John

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [CEIS Webinar](#) (during Super App Weekly Office Hours): December 17 at 11:00 a.m.
- [Monthly Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call](#): December 18 at 1:00 p.m.

Important Deadlines

- [LEAP 2025 fall high school testing window](#) closes: December 14
- [School Health Survey](#) deadline: December 15
- [2017-2018 Leader Evaluation Score CIS](#) upload deadline: December 21
- [Reporting on Website Posting of Public School Choice](#) deadline: December 31
- [2019 Jump Start Convention Registration](#) deadline: January 2

School System Support

New: New Tier 1 Vendor Webinars

Please share with district test coordinators.

In November, school systems embarked on the school planning process for the 2019-2020 school year. To help school systems understand Tier 1 ELA and math curriculum options, the Department invited Tier 1 vendors to host webinars in December. A master list of webinar dates, times, and information on how to join is now [available](#).

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Submission of 2018 Equity Report

During the 2017 Regular Session, the Louisiana Legislature passed [Act 224](#) (which became R.S. 17:22(11)), requiring the state superintendent of education to annually prepare and submit a report that assists policymakers and the public in assessing the extent to which all Louisiana students have access to a quality public education.

The [2018 Equity Report](#) has been submitted to the legislature, and can be found in the [Equity Library](#) on the Department's website.

If you have any questions about this year's report, please reach out to erin.bendily@la.gov.

Reminder: Updated School System Support Calendar

The [school system support calendar](#) has been updated to include the following changes highlighted in yellow in the calendar.

- Updated locations and dates for February Supervisor and Principal Collaborations
- Updated date for March Supervisor Collaboration in Baton Rouge (moved to March 14)

Please email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Coordinated Early Intervention Services Webinar During Super App Weekly Office Hours

The Department is offering recurring office hours for Super App support every Monday from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. through January 28, 2019. On December 17, the Department will be hosting a webinar on Coordinated Early Intervention Services during office hours. Schools that have questions outside of this webinar are still encouraged to log in and send their questions to Department representatives.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 17 (and every Monday at 11:00 a.m.)
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/594569803>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 669-900-6833
- **Meeting ID#:** 594569803

For schools interested in reviewing materials presented during previous Super App learning experiences, the following materials are available:

- [Nonpublic Equitable Share](#) presentation from the December 10 office hours
- [2019-2020 Equitable Services timeline](#) sent to nonpublic schools
- [Allowability of Federal Funds](#) presentation from the December 3 office hours
- Collaboration event resources are located in the [School System Support Library](#)

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

Family Engagement

Reminder: Parent Guides to 2018-2019 Assessments Now Available

Please share with principals, teachers, and families.

The following parent guides are now available in the [Family Support Toolbox Library](#) to provide families with information on Louisiana's state assessments:

- Parent Guide to the LEAP 2025 Tests (3-12)
- Parent Guide to the ELPT
- Parent Guide to the LEAP Connect
- Parent Guide to LEAP 360

Translated versions in Spanish, Arabic, and Vietnamese are also available for all guides.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

New: For District Testing Coordinators

General

- The [2018-2019 Assessment Month-by-Month Checklist](#) is located in the [Assessment Library](#). The checklist identifies key dates and deadlines for statewide assessment programs and accountability processes for next school year, provides action steps to ensure readiness for administering statewide assessments, and recommends resources for school systems and school staff.
- All changes to district test coordinators (DTCs) or accountability contacts must be submitted to the Department using the [DTC and Accountability Contact Update form](#) found in the [Assessment Library](#).
- The NAEP 2019 Prepare for Assessment activities are available. STCs are able to review the list of NAEP-sampled students in their school. The STC can select the Prepare for Assessment link from the menu on the left side of [MyNAEP](#). All activities below must be completed prior to the Pre-assessment Review call in early January:
 - Review and Verify List of Students Selected for NAEP (must be completed first)
 - Complete SD/ELL Student Information
 - Notify Parents
 - Manage Questionnaires
 - Plan for Assessment Day

- Encourage Participation
- Update Student List (available January 1)

LEAP 360

- Teacher Access is now live for all Interim assessments. The Teacher Access link and usernames/passwords are found in the [Interim Quick Start Guide](#).
- Materials ordering, communication assistance scripts (CAS), and grades 3 and 4 paper tests are available for all Interim assessments within [eDIRECT](#).

LEAP 2025

- Now-December 14: Fall high school testing window
- Voids and testing irregularities from the fall 2018 LEAP 2025/EOC administration must be emailed to assessment@la.gov by the conclusion of testing each week.
- School system test security reports are currently available in the FTP. Only school systems with voids will receive a test security report.

LEAP Connect

- The TAM and TCM for both LEAP Connect and LAA 1 are now posted in [eDIRECT](#) under General Information, Documents, LEAP Connect/LAA 1 Spring 2019.

ELPT

- ELPT training modules are available in the [Webinars and Trainings](#) section of the [ELPT portal](#).
- The following ELPT administrative manuals are posted in the [ELPT portal](#) under [ELPT Resources: TIDE User Guide, TA User Guide, Data Entry Interface \(DEI\), and Accessibility and Accommodations](#).
- The [ELPT Assessment Guide](#) has been updated for the 2018-2019 administration and is posted in the [Assessment Guidance Library](#).

ACT and WorkKeys

- ACT is sending training packets to all school systems this week to be distributed to schools. The packets contain copies of the manuals and administration forms for schools to prepare for testing. Schools will receive an email with the tracking numbers.
- Now – January 25, 2019
 - ACT Mock Administration open for any schools considering testing ACT online
 - Install ProctorCache software and setup proctor caching in [PANext](#) (ACT online testing only).
 - Upload and verify student information in [PANext](#) for ACT using the SDU Upload
- Week of January 10, 2019
 - Students in grade 11 and 12 having no ACT score on record will be uploaded to [PANext](#) by January 16, 2019.
 - The ACT Match/No Match Lists will be placed in the district FTP the week of January 10, 2019.
- The November 29 [ACT Test Administration Webinar](#) is available in the Assessment Library under the ACT and WorkKeys section.
- An update to the [ACT Schedule of Events](#) on the [ACT State Testing](#) site in the “Prepare for Makeup Testing” section on page 4 was posted on December 3. All DTCs and STCs should download the updated schedule.
- Now – January 25, 2019
 - ACT Mock Administration is open for any schools considering testing ACT online
 - Install ProctorCache software and setup proctor caching in [PANext](#) (ACT online testing only).
 - Upload and verify student information in [PANext](#) for ACT using the SDU Upload. Students will be uploaded to [PANext](#) by the week of December 10.

Assessment Administration Support and Training

The next Assessment and Accountability Office Hours will be December 18 at 1:00 p.m.

- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 669-900-6833
- **Meeting ID#:** 393463942

The [Office Hours Questions and Answers](#) document is posted in the [Assessment Library](#). Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 2017-2018 Results in the Secure Portal

The Principal and Superintendent Secure Portal (www.LouisianaSchools.info) is now updated with 2017-2018 K-12 and ECE accountability results. The Secure Portal offers a look at every element of the state accountability system, broken down into custom reports by school system, school, grade, or student group.

Adding New Users:

For new principals and school system leaders who need access to the Principal and Superintendent Secure Reporting Portal, a user request form has been placed on the DM FTP in the Secure Portal Update folder under file name "Secure Portal User Request Form."

Data management FTP coordinators should retrieve the file and provide to superintendents for updating. Once the updates have been completed, the file should be renamed using the following naming guidelines and uploaded in the same location as the original: File Name: (LEACode)_(LEA Name)_Secure Portal User Request Form_Completed

Superintendents will also need to send an email to systemsupport@la.gov confirming the user requests and providing consent to the Department to grant access to those users. Permissions are updated bi-weekly.

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Feedback Survey on 2018 School and Center Finder Results

Please share with principals.

The Department is committed to providing families with a complete look at school quality and helping them to find the right school or early childhood center for their children through the [Louisiana School and Center Finder](#).

To that end, the Department is seeking feedback on the 2018 school report cards and early childhood performance profiles released in the School and Center Finder in order to make improvements to the system in 2019.

School system and school leaders should share their [feedback](#) by January 11.

Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

High School Pathways

New: College Board AP District Honor Roll

Congratulations to the West Baton Rouge Parish School System for making the [College Board's Annual AP Honor Roll](#) for the second year in a row. The AP District Honor Roll recognizes school districts committed to increasing access to AP for underrepresented students while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher.

New: PSAT Scores Now Available

Please share with professional school counselors, administrators, and test coordinators.

PSAT scores are now available to educators through the [K-12 reporting](#) portal. Students can access their scores starting today, December 11, via the [student online reports portal](#).

Students that take the PSAT 10 or PSAT/NMSQT are eligible for several scholarships. Learn more about [scholarship programs and partners](#) on the College Board website.

Please direct all school or student report questions to psat@info.collegeboard.org.

Reminder: 2019 Jump Start Convention

Please share with school system administrators, high school principals, and Jump Start regional team members.

The 2019 Jump Start Convention is scheduled for January 29, 2019 at the Baton Rouge River Center. [Registration is open](#) through January 2.

The theme for this year's convention is "Stronger Pathways. Stronger Credentials. Stronger Future." Sessions will focus on a variety of topics from building relationships with industry, CTE Leadership Academy, Jump Start scheduling, Jump Start Summers, STEM Pathways, and others.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Educator Preparation

New: Department Releases Report on Mentoring in Post-Baccalaureate Programs

Roughly half of all teachers in Louisiana are prepared through post-baccalaureate, or "alternate certification" training programs that require significantly less pre-service practice experiences under the tutelage of a mentor teacher, compared to undergraduate residents, before serving as a teacher of record.

Research shows that structured support from and practice with a strong mentor teacher has a significant impact on teacher success and student growth. Therefore, during the 2018-2019 school year, the Department is supporting a pilot community of rural school systems that are implementing innovative approaches to post-baccalaureate preparation, which include:

- strategic partnerships with teacher preparation providers,
- extensive time for practice throughout the school year, and
- mentoring by expert teachers at each school site.

On December 6, the Department released a [report](#) highlighting important lessons learned from these pilots thus far, including the impact of increasing the amount of mentoring required as part of a post-baccalaureate program.

Please email believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 2017-2018 Compass Leader Evaluation Scores

The 2017-2018 Leader evaluation scores should be uploaded into the Compass Information System (CIS) **by December 21**. For guidance on uploading the data into CIS, please review [Leader Evaluation Uploads](#), a step-by-step PowerPoint outlining the uploading protocol. This resource is also available in the "Training Materials" section of the [Compass Library](#).

For the 2018-2019 Compass Information System (CIS) deadlines, please note the following 1st-semester timeline:

Date	Action Item
November 26 - December 21	School System Level Compass Administrators upload 2017-2018 leader scores into CIS
December 3	School leaders review Student Learning Targets (SLTs)

For more information, please review the [2018-2019 CIS Timeline](#) located in the [Compass Library](#) in Louisiana Believes.

For more information, please email compass@la.gov.

Data

New: Home Study Reports Now Available via FTP

Please share with child welfare/attendance staff and home study personnel.

Home Study Reports from the fall semester are available via the Data Management FTP (with user names ending in @datamgmt) in zipped files named "LEACode_LEAName_Oct2018HomeStudy" and will remain on the FTP until February 1, 2019. Within the zipped file, there will be the following:

- Statewide enrollment numbers of BESE-approved home study students
- Detailed list of students from your LEA enrolled in home study program
- Each student's home study approval notification letter
- Statewide enrollment numbers of registered nonpublic schools and student enrollment
- Detailed list of registered schools and student enrollment from your LEA

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

Reminder: October 2018 Data File of Economically Disadvantaged Students

Please share with data coordinators, federal program, and finance staff.

On December 4, the Department released the October 2018 data file of economically disadvantaged students for each school system. The single Excel file, *LEA Code LEA Name Oct 2018 Economically Disadvantaged*, will be available through February 28 on the data management FTP site. FTP coordinators should locate their individual school system file and share it with their federal program and finance staff. These data will be used by the Department to inform grants, federal funding, and subgroup determinations.

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Policy

Reminder: Reporting on Website Posting of Public School Choice

[Act 459](#) of the 2018 Regular Session requires each public school governing authority to post their Public School Choice policy on their website by no later than September 30 and report the website link to the Louisiana Department of Education by no later than December 31.

Please send the Public School Choice policy website URL of your local governing authority to leslie.hill@la.gov by no later than December 31 as required by Act 459.

Statewide Monitoring

Reminder: Program Monitoring - ESSA and IDEA 2017-2018 Monitoring Rubrics Released

The Department will continue to implement a risk-based monitoring selection process for federal program monitoring. The ESSA monitoring rubric will be made available to every school system assigned a letter grade. Additionally, the IDEA monitoring rubric will be made available to every school system assigned an LEA Determination. In most circumstances, school systems will receive two rubrics, the ESSA and IDEA monitoring rubrics.

The monitoring rubrics, which are the equivalent to a monitoring report card, provide a detailed preview of compliance factors and performance data analyzed to determine the most appropriate monitoring experience for school systems. **Monitoring rubrics are available for download via FTP until December 28.** The Department reserves the right to make adjustments to monitoring rankings based on factors which may not be included on the rubric. For any school system selected to participate in program monitoring, a formal monitoring notification from an assigned Department monitoring team leader will follow.

Questions regarding ESSA monitoring rubrics should be directed to tasha.anthony@la.gov. Questions regarding IDEA monitoring rubrics should be directed to chauncey.carr-mcelwee@la.gov.