

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



December 19, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

Because of the holidays, there will not be a newsletter produced for the next two weeks. We look forward to resuming newsletters during the week of January 8.

The year 2018 will surely be a lively one and an important one for schools in our state. For the first time, [mentor teachers](#), [content leaders](#), and [resident teachers](#) will be fully certified in their new and unique roles. Schools statewide will begin to introduce new science curricula to match newly developed [standards](#). All graduates will complete [financial aid forms](#) to fund workforce training or a college education. And hundreds of schools will develop and implement, with partner organizations, [plans](#) for comprehensive improvement.

There remain daunting challenges. Early childhood centers must focus on developing children's cognitive skills by modeling language and asking questions. Elementary schools must develop early screening systems for identifying and addressing each student's needs. High schools must do away with industry credentials that mean little to employers, instead offering all students courses valued by industry and higher education.

The new year, as always, holds the promise of change. It reminds us of the most essential premise of education: that growth is always possible, every day and in every child.

Happy holidays to you and to your families.

John

In This Issue

- [School System Support](#)
- [Assessment and Accountability](#)
- [Student Opportunities](#)
- [Special Education](#)
- [Data](#)
- [Federal Programs](#)
- [Statewide Monitoring](#)
- [Policy](#)

Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [Registration](#) for the January/February Supervisor and Principal Collaborations opens: January 3
- [Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call](#): January 9 at 1:00 p.m.

- [January School System Planning Call](#): January 10 at 1:00 p.m.
- [Special Education Leader Monthly Webinar](#): January 11 at 2:00 p.m.
- [Individual Growth Plan and Graduation Pathway webinar](#): January 11 at 3:00 p.m.
-

Important Deadlines

- [Foster care transportation plans](#) are due by December 22
- High Cost Services grant application due by January 10
- Jump Start Convention [registration](#) closes by January 12

School System Support

New: January School System Planning Call:

The January School System Planning Call will take place on January 10, 2018, from 1:00 until 2:00 p.m. The following school system supervisors should participate:

- Early childhood supervisors
- District test coordinators
- Accountability contacts
- Data coordinators
- Curriculum supervisors
- Teacher Leader and mentor teacher supervisors
- High school and career and technical supervisors
- Special education and English learner supervisors

Webinar login information

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dpc>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Dial 1-855-240-2575 and enter PIN # 89147656.

New: January/February Supervisor and Principal Collaborations

Sessions at the January/February Supervisor and Principal Collaborations will focus on topics relevant to school system leaders including but not limited, to accountability, school system planning, content area instruction, assessment, early childhood, and data systems.

Registration opens on Wednesday, January 3 in [Wisdomwhere](#) and the overview documents will be [posted](#) on Friday, December 22.

Date	Location	
Tuesday, January 30	Claiborne Building 1201 N.3rd St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802	Baton Rouge
Thursday, February 1	Jefferson Parish Public School Board 501 Manhattan Blvd. Harvey, LA 70058	Harvey

Wednesday, February 7	Bayou Church 2234 Kaliste Saloom Rd. Lafayette, LA 70508	Lafayette
Thursday, February 8	Trinity Methodist Church 1000 Woodward Ave. Ruston, LA 71270	Ruston
Supervisor Collaborations 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Principal Collaborations 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.		

Please contact LouisianaTeacherLeaders@la.gov with questions related to this event.

New: English Learner Support

Please share with English learner teachers and supervisors.

The following professional learning opportunities were held, or will be held, to support the implementation of the Connectors for English learners (ELs) and build knowledge of the new English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT).

Training	Dates	Targeted Audience
Dec. 14 ELPT Test Webinar: Provided an overview and updates on the ELPT assessment and portal .	Posted in the Department's Webinar Library	English Language Development teachers, District Test Coordinators and School-based Test Administrators
Implementing Connectors for ELs with ELA Guidebook Lessons: Will provide a deep dive on appropriate linguistic scaffolding	This training will take place January 18-19 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the Thomas Jefferson room of the Claiborne Building. Registration is currently open in WisdomWhere .	EL coaches, Master Teachers, Instructional Specialists, and Content Leaders

Please email classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

New: U.S. History Sample Scope and Sequence Updated

The U.S. History Sample Scope and Sequence document has been updated. This updated document provides instructional tasks which build content knowledge and skill with **sources**, a coherent year-long frame which **makes connections** among content ideas, and assessments which measure how well students **express informed opinions** with evidence and outside knowledge.

- US History Sample Scope and Sequence Updated - [Word](#)
- US History Sample Scope and Sequence Updated - [PDF](#)

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with any questions.

Reminder: Updated School System Support Calendar Released

The Department has released an [updated version of the school system support calendar](#). All updates have been highlighted in yellow and include:

- Update to the date of the 2018 Teacher Leader Summit
- Addition of Special Education Supervisor webinars January-May
- Addition of Individual Graduation Plan webinars in January
- February Counselor Collaborations
- Updates to release of Teacher Leader newsletters

Email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy (SRCL) Grant Update

The SRCL grant is designed to advance the literacy skills of disadvantaged youth by providing funding to school systems with strong plans to address three core components of the state's larger reform effort: **Standards and Curriculum, Professional Development, and Assessment.**

Applications were due November 10. **The Department received 144 applications:**

- 55 applications for Birth to Grade 5
- 52 applications for Grades 6-8
- 37 applications for Grades 9-12

To ensure a thorough review of the large number of applications received, the **announcement of awards is now scheduled for the January BESE meeting.**

Email jill.slack@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

New: Reminders for District Testing Coordinators

LEAP 2025 Practice Tests

- Social studies, ELA, and math practice tests for grades 3-8 are now available for student use in INSIGHT.

LEAP 360

- Summary reports Interim 1 summary reports and csv files are posted in eDIRECT.

English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT)

- The Department held a webinar for EL teachers and specialists on the English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) last week. The presentation and recording are located in the [Assessment Guidance](#) library.

LEAP Connect

- The webinar for special education teachers and specialists on the LEAP Connect is posted in the [Assessment Library](#) and [Assessment Guidance](#) library.

Assessment Administration Support and Training

- Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call
 - There are no calls scheduled December 26 or January 2. Calls will resume on January 9, 2018.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Superintendent and Principal Profile Release

The new principal and superintendent profiles were released at www.louisianaschools.info on Thursday, December 14. This secure website replaces the previous principal and superintendent profiles with an interactive data exploration tool that provides principals and superintendents with access to important information across content areas (early childhood and K-12 accountability, college-going, and workforce reports). Simulated 2016-2017 accountability results under the new 2018 accountability formula will be available in the secure reporting system.

Superintendents and principals are able to log into the secure reporting system using their CVR system credentials. Please view the [login quick access guide](#) or contact your school system CVR data manager for assistance.

Note: Due to an authorization issue, some users are currently receiving this error message after entering credentials: "The sign-in system is experiencing a temporary outage. Please try again later." The Department is working with IT to resolve this issue by end of the week. Network leaders will alert school systems when the issue is resolved. For any other access issues, please email systemsupport@la.gov.

The Department held webinars on December 15 and 18 to walk superintendents and principals through the profile system. A [recording](#) of the webinar can be found in the [Accountability Library](#).

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Urgent Intervention Required for Discipline Update

In response to feedback from the field and in keeping with [national suspension rates](#), the Department has issued revised definitions for identifying schools as Urgent Intervention Required for discipline:

- **Elementary schools (grades PK-4):** reported an out-of-school suspension rate above 5.2% for three consecutive years (2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017)
- **Middle and high schools (grades 5-12):** reported an out-of-school suspension rate above 20.2% for three consecutive years (2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017)
- **Elementary/middle schools and combination schools (grades PK-12):** reported an out-of-school suspension rate for grades PK-4 above 5.2% for three consecutive years (2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017) and/or reported an out-of-school suspension rate for grades 5-12 above 20.2% for three consecutive years (2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017)

The [2018-2019 School System Planning Guide](#) has been updated to reflect this change, and updated intervention labels will be provided in the [principal and superintendent reporting system](#) in December. Annual out-of-school suspension rates by school and school system can be found in the [Safe and Healthy School Data Center](#).

Reminder: Updated Release of Updated Growth Target Rosters for Schools

Last summer, the Department released growth target rosters for all students who participated in state assessments. The growth target rosters were updated to assign students to sites based on 2017-2018 enrollment, and were placed on secure FTP Friday, December 15, 2017. Files names are below:

- For K8 schools: *LEA Code_K8 Growth to Mastery Student Rosters*
- For high schools: *LEA Code_High School Growth to Mastery Student Rosters*

Email assessment@al.gov with questions.

Student Opportunities

New: 2017-2018 Individual Graduation Plan and Diploma Pathway Webinar

Please share with school counselors.

The Department is hosting a webinar to support professional school counselors with the Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) and diploma pathway selection process. Participants will review the Guidance for Individual Graduation Plans and Diploma Pathway Selection document that was developed to assist middle and high school counselors in the annual development and review of the IGP. The webinar will be offered twice:

- January 11, 2018, from 3:00 until 3:30 p.m.
- January 17, 2018, from 3:00 until 3:30 p.m.

To join the webinar:

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/igp2018>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name

Please email leslie.gilliland@la.gov for assistance.

New: VEX Robotics Grant Opportunity

Please share with STEM or science supervisors, teachers, and K-12 professional school counselors.

The Robotics Education and Competition (REC) Foundation will provide ten school system grants for the state of Louisiana in support of the [Louisiana Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Advisory Council \(LaSTEM\) initiative](#). The VEX IQ Challenge grants are for elementary and middle school grades 3-8 and the VRC Grants are for middle and high school grades 7-12.

Learn more about the [grant opportunity](#) and [apply](#) by **Friday, January 12, 2018**. Contact lastem@regents.la.gov with questions.

Special Education

New: Join the Special Education Leader Monthly Webinar

The Department will hold its **monthly webinar for school system directors, supervisors, and coordinators of special education on Thursday, January 11, at 2:00 p.m.** Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, guidance, and training opportunities.

To join the Special Education Policy Monthly Webinar (no pre-registration required):

- Go to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/spedjan/>.
- Dial: 1-855-240-2575.
- Enter participant code: 30160130.

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

Reminder: High Cost Services Grant Updates

The 2017-2018 High Cost Services grant opened on December 12 for Round 2 applications in **eGMS**, and will close on January 10. Round 2 applications are for students who are new to your school system this year and more information can be found in Louisiana's [state plan](#).

If you have questions about the application, please email ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov.

Data

New: October 2017 Data File of Economically Disadvantaged Students

The October 2017 data file of economically disadvantaged students for each school system was released today. The single Excel file, *LEACode_LEAName_Oct 2017 Economically Disadvantaged*, will be available through February 16, 2018, on the data management FTP site.

FTP coordinators should locate their individual system file and share it with their federal program and finance staff. The data include students eligible for SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, reduced price lunch and those who are limited English proficient (LEP), homeless, migrant, foster care, or incarcerated. These data will be used by the Department to inform grants, federal funding, and subgroup determinations.

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Federal Programs

Reminder: District/State/Local Fund Title I Allocation Methodology Plan – Deadline Extended

To be in compliance with the new ESSA *supplement, not supplant* rules, school systems must adopt a methodology for the allocation of state and local funds. This methodology should demonstrate that each Title I school in the school system receives all local and state funds without consideration of the Title I funds it receives.

Originally, the reauthorization of ESEA required that school systems meet this compliance requirement by December 10, 2017. However USDOE has extended the deadline to the start of the 2018-2019 school year. Therefore, school systems should be prepared to have their allocation methodology plan in place at the start of the school year to ensure that 2018-2019 Title I funds are supplementing, and not supplanting, other state and local funds.

ESEA still requires that Title I, Part A funds be used only to supplement, not supplant, state and local funds for the education of students participating in programs assisted under Title I, Part A.

School systems should note that:

- The local/state fund school allocation methodology does not need to be sent to the Department, but should be kept on file at the school system for monitoring purposes.
- The Title I supplement, not supplant methodology requirement does not apply to single site school systems or those that have one school per grade span.

For further information, contact LDOE.GrantsHelpdesk@la.gov.

Statewide Monitoring

New: Consolidated Monitoring Schedule for SY 2017-2018

The Department conducts annual monitoring of school systems to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements. To assist school systems in thoughtful planning and preparation for a scheduled monitoring event, the Department is releasing the [consolidated monitoring schedule for the 2017-2018 school year](#). The schedule is tentative and the agency reserves the right to make adjustments as necessary.

Quarterly updates will follow this newsletter announcement. Additionally, the assigned Statewide Monitoring Team Leader will send a more detailed monitoring notification reminder, along with any necessary planning documents or instructions, directly to Superintendents and Federal Program Directors of each school system appearing on the monitoring schedule. The [second quarter monitoring schedule](#) is also available.

If you have any questions about the monitoring schedule or program monitoring related to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), please contact tasha.anthony@la.gov or chauncey.mcelwee@la.gov for monitoring related to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Policy

New: December 2017 BESE Meeting Summary

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met on December 12 and approved a number of bulletin revisions and recommendations. Please see the [December 2017 BESE Summary](#) for the approvals that directly impact the activities of local school systems.

Email ryan.n.gremillion@la.gov with questions.