



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

March 7, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Since launching the [Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring Program](#) earlier this year, around 3,000 Louisiana families have enrolled. We're excited about this new opportunity and I'm asking for your support to make sure the parents of every eligible public school student know about these \$1,000 tutoring vouchers to help their child learn to read.

The Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring Program offers \$1,000 digital tutoring vouchers to public school students in grades K-5 who are reading below grade level. These approved tutors are trained in the science of reading. Parents can sign-up for sessions after the school day, and they will be offered during the summer. This program is an added benefit to the support you already provide students during the school day. Even if a local provider isn't available for face-to-face tutoring, every eligible child in the state has access to virtual sessions.

I want to encourage every public school in the state to share this opportunity with eligible families. We've even developed some resources to help make that as easy as possible.

- [Important Information for Systems & Schools](#)
- [Letter to Families](#)
- [FAQ for Families](#)
- [Sample Text Messages](#)
- [Letter to School Leaders](#)
- [School System Flyer](#)

If you have any questions, please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov.

Dr. Cade Brumley

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- CWA and Louisiana Attendance Alliance Monthly Call: [March 8 at 8 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [March 8 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Local Authorizer Monthly Call: [March 8 at 11 a.m.](#)
- BESE-Authorized Charter Schools Monthly Call: [March 9 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [March 9 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Well-Being Monthly Call: [March 15 at 9:30 a.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Monthly Call: [March 15 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [March 16 at 10 a.m.](#)
- School Based Medicaid Monthly Call: [March 21 at 2:30 p.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [March 22 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [March 23 at 3 p.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Business Manager Monthly Call: [March 29 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Division of Diverse Learners Office Hours: [March 28 at 3:00 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [April 4 at 1 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- April Dunn Act Training: Creating Local Procedures: [March 8 at 4:30 p.m.](#)
- [Jump Start Summers](#) Webinar: [March 8 at 1 p.m.](#)
- March Principal's Newsletter shout outs due: [March 10](#)
- [Jump Start Summers Application](#) due: March 13 at 5 p.m.
- Stronger Connections Grant Webinar: [March 16 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Sight Word Recognition Virtual PD Session: [March 16 at 3:30 p.m.](#)
- Outstanding School Support Award local-level honoree deadline: March 17
- April Dunn Act Training: Self-Assessment Guide Section One: [March 20 and 22 at 4:30 p.m.](#)
- Principal's [Newsletter](#) release: March 23
- Legislative Youth Advisory Council 2023-2024 application deadline: [March 24](#)
- April Dunn Act Training: Self-Assessment Guide Section Two: [March 27 and 29 at 4:30 p.m.](#)
- Reading Prescription Webinar: [March 28 at 3:30 p.m.](#)
- IDEA Plan of Correction deadline: March 31

Operations

Stronger Connections Grant

Please share with school system leaders.

On June 25, 2022, President Biden signed into law the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), an important first step toward reducing the risk of gun violence in our schools and communities. In accordance with BSCA guidelines, LDOE will release the Stronger Connections Grant in mid to late March.

A webinar will be held on March 16 at 3 p.m. with additional information. Information needed to join this call is included below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 16 at 3 p.m.
- **Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92871109824?pwd=d3o3a3V1RkpSWXM0SndyOHdTRFc1QT09>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID:** 928 7110 9824
- **Passcode:** 563445

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

Career and College Readiness

Jump Start Summers Application

Please share with CTE supervisors.

The [Jump Start Summers program](#) will launch summer training sessions for students to

- earn Carnegie credit aligned to Fast Forward pathways;
- earn industry-based credentials;
- engage in work-learning, and
- earn a student stipend for attendance, engagement, and achievement.

The [application](#) to submit as a prospective or returning Jump Start Summers provider is now open. The application will close on **March 13 at 5 p.m.** The encumbered Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA) dollars can be used for this opportunity.

More information will be provided in the Jump Start Summers webinar..

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 8 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98027118936>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1-312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID:** 980 2711 8936
- **Passcode:** 770692

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

School Social Work Week

Please share with mental health providers, system leaders, school leaders, social workers, and social worker supervisors.

In honor of school social workers who serve as a vital component of the educational team, Governor John Bel Edwards signed a [proclamation](#) declaring March 5 to March 11 as Louisiana School Social Work Week. Social workers play a central role in creating positive school climates and vital partnerships between the home, school and community to ensure academic success.

Please take this opportunity to thank all school social social workers for all they do for the students of Louisiana. Please contact levillia.moore@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Social Studies Instructional Strategies Webinar

Please share with social studies teachers, coaches, content supervisors, and administrators.

Join the Department for a deep dive into social studies instructional strategies and protocols that aim to help students develop the skills and practices outlined in the 2022 LSSSS. This webinar will focus on protocols for claims testing, contextualization, and sourcing. Access the [Q&A/Webinar Opportunities](#) document for links to previously recorded webinars related to social studies standards implementation.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 21 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94042048344>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID#:** 940 4204 8344

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

SPED Fellow Academy: Cohort Four

Please share with teachers, school leaders, and system leaders.

The [application](#) for cohort four of the Special Education (SPED) Fellows Academy will be open through March 31.

Interviews will be held during the second week of April. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance to cohort four of the Special Education (SPED) Fellows Academy by late April.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov for more information.

IEPs and Behavior and Discipline - Oh My!

Please share with special educators and related service providers.

Families Helping Families is hosting [IEPs and Behavior and Discipline - Oh My!](#), a free webinar that will review the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process, functional behavior assessments, and disciplinary issues in schools. The webinar will be held on [March 9, from 12 - 1 p.m.](#)

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov for more information.

Vision Network Meeting

Please share with special educators and related service providers.

Louisiana Accessible Education Materials (LA-AEM) is hosting a [Vision Network](#) meeting regarding VI updates with Bulletin 1508, the census count, and capacity building for VI and paraprofessionals. The meeting will be held on [March 10, from 10 a.m. - noon.](#)

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov for more information.

Educator Development

Teacher Leader Summit- Early Bird Registration Closing on March 9

Please share with teachers, school leaders, and system leaders.

Educators, it's not too late! [Early bird registration](#) for the 2023 Teacher Leader [Summit](#) is open through **March 9**. You won't want to miss this year's event. Availability is open on a first come, first served basis.

Be sure to let others know that you will be attending this year's Teacher Leader [Summit](#) by sharing the news on your social media pages. Find your "I'm Going" graphics on the [Teacher Leader Summit page](#).

Please contact events@emergentmethod.com with any questions.

Literacy

READ Program Resources

Please share with school leaders and teachers.

Informational resources for the READ Program are now available in the [Families Literacy Library](#). The READ Program gives families access to free books and literacy resources for students in grades PK4-5th who are not yet reading on grade level. Informational flyer templates are available for school systems to download and distribute. Families can sign up with the school code and receive new books directly to their homes. Books and resources are available in English and Spanish.

Visit readla.scholastic.com for more information.

Three Cueing Webinar Recording

Please share with school leaders and teachers.

The [recording](#) and [slides](#) from the webinar that focused on the banning of three cueing in accordance with Act 517 has been posted in the [Literacy Instruction, Intervention, and Extension Library](#). This session provided participants with an understanding of the three-cueing approach to reading and how it differs from a science of reading-aligned, code-based approach. The session explained how to identify curriculums that use a three cueing approach and what steps should be taken to ensure students receive code-based phonics instruction.

Free Virtual PD Opportunities

Please share with school leaders and teachers.

Sight Word Recognition – Beyond the Eye and into the Brain

This session intends to transform the lens and current practices of instruction in "sight word" recognition. Traditional sight word instruction relies on black-and-white images and rote memorization, which does not aid in true sight word recognition. Participants will learn to align curricula and instructional practices in teaching "sight words" with the science of reading and how to approach word walls and sound walls in a K-3 structured literacy classroom.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 16 at 4 to 5 p.m.
- [Registration Link](#)

Reading Prescription – Conferencing with Parents about their Student’s Academic Progress

This session will support educators in understanding how to effectively partner with families to help students’ literacy growth. The presentation provides an overview of Act 688, requiring literacy screeners for K-3 students, and Act 438, requiring schools to report screener results to families within 15 days. Educators will understand the importance of partnering with families and communicating assessment results effectively with families. Educators will also receive resources they can share with families to support students with literacy at home.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 28 at 4 to 5 p.m.
- [Registration Link](#)

School Improvement

Level Up: School Improvement Best Practices at Teacher Leader Summit 2023

Please share with system and school leaders.

[Level Up: School Improvement Best Practices](#) required for all CIR schools for 2023 - 2024, will be delivered at [Teacher Leader Summit 2023](#). LDOE is providing funding to systems to cover costs associated with sending three Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) members from each CIR school to Teacher Leader Summit 2023 to attend this session. These *Level Up* sessions will extend and build on the foundational training that occurred virtually last summer.

Pre-paid registration links were sent to principals of CIR schools to register themselves and two additional ILT members from their schools. The registration is valid for the entire TL Summit, with the requirement to attend one of the full day *Level Up* sessions on May 30 or 31.

If a principal from a CIR school did not get the email with the prepaid link, please contact the Division of School Improvement at the address below with the principal's name, email address, and the school name.

Please contact schoolimprovementdivision@la.gov for more information