



LDOE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

May 16, 2023

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

Business Manager Monthly Call: [May 17 at 2 p.m.](#)

Nonpublic Monthly Call: [May 17 at 2 p.m.](#)

Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [May 18 at 10 a.m.](#)

School Finance Support Office Hours: [May 23 at 2 p.m.](#)

Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [May 23 at 3:45 p.m.](#)

Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [May 24 at 1 p.m.](#)

Federal Fiscal Compliance Office Hours: [May 24 at 2 p.m.](#)

Federal Fiscal Compliance Office Hours: [May 30 at 2 p.m.](#)

Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [June 6 at 1 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- Mentor and Resident Spring Data Collection webinar: [May 18 at 10 a.m.](#)
- [2023 Louisiana School Safety Summit](#): June 15
- Registration for [School Support Institutes 2023-2024](#): May 8 - June 8

Operations

Achieve! Allocations and Remaining ESSER Balances Update

Please share with superintendents, federal program directors, and business managers.

In an effort to support LEAs with drawing down funds, the Federal Support and Grantee Relations and Operational Quality divisions provided all LEAs with Achieve! allocations and remaining balances for ESSER II and/or ESSER III Formula funds via email last week. The information

- provides a comprehensive view of ESSER II Formula and/or ESSER III Formula allocations to date;
- highlights LEA-specific ESSER II and III Formula funding balances to ensure obligations are in place during the period of availability of the grant funds; and
- provides a guidance [resource](#) to assist with budgeting funds in the Achieve! application.

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

System Open for EEF Periodic Expense Report Submissions

Please share with superintendents, business managers, EEF contacts, and school leaders.

School systems may begin submitting Education Excellence Fund (EEF) 6/30 Periodic Expense Reports (PER) in eGMS. Schools or agencies that received payments from the 2022-2023 EEF this year are advised of the following important dates:

- **June 30:** Deadline for EEF recipients to obligate EEF funds
- **July 15:** Deadline for EEF recipients to submit final 6/30 PERs

Please note: Final PERs are used to calculate EEF allocations for the following year. If the final PER is not submitted by July 15, EEF recipients may experience delays in accessing their EEF funds for 2023-2024.

An important reminder: The final expenditure checkbox located near the bottom of the Expenditure Obligation Summary page must be checked for PERS to be reported as final. For assistance in preparing the final 6/30 PER for EEF, see the Training section on the eGMS page, [Tips & Reminders: Preparing the Periodic Expense Report \(PER\)](#).

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

Assessments, Accountability and Analytics

LEAP 2025

Please share with testing coordinators.

All void forms for LEAP 2025 are due to the Department by **May 29**. Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

2022-2023 Teacher Roster Verification for VAM

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

Roster verification ensures that teachers are assigned to the correct courses and classroom rosters of students for the purposes of value-added (VAM) analysis. The data in the [Curriculum Verification and Results \(CVR\) Reporting Portal](#) is used to calculate a teacher's VAM score even if the teacher and/or principal do not verify the roster. The CVR Portal is open until **May 26**. Teachers and principals should verify and correct records, and data managers should track verification completion by that date. Refer to the updated [User Guide for CVR](#) for more information.

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions regarding roster verification; contact compass@la.gov with general questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Last Chance: Professional Learning to Support Implementation of Zearn Access!

Please share with math teachers, coaches, content supervisors, and administrators.

As part of the [Louisiana Math Refresh](#), the Department is partnering with [Zearn](#) to provide school accounts to all public schools serving K-8 students. Registration is open for additional sessions to support teachers and leaders in successful implementation. Sessions are available in June and July in both virtual and in-person formats.

- Teachers should register for [Launching Zearn Math](#).
- Leaders should register for [Accelerating Impact with Zearn](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Math Refresh Summer Webinar Series

Please share with math teachers, coaches, content supervisors, and administrators.

The Department's math team will host a summer webinar series for current school leaders, principals, and supervisors on the [Louisiana Math Refresh](#). Each webinar will focus on a specific topic designed to help school leaders impact math instruction. Session descriptions and registration information can be found in the [Math Refresh Summer Webinar Series flyer](#). Math teachers, coaches, content supervisors, and administrators should register using school or system email addresses. Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

Local SEAC Reports Due End of May

Please share with special education directors.

Pursuant to R.S.17:1944, local school systems are required to post annual Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) reports on their local websites and submit them annually to the Department each May. To satisfy this legislative requirement, please submit the link to your posted 2022-2023 SEAC report using this [Report Collection survey](#) by May 31. Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Special Education Camera Implementation Data Collection

Please share with special education directors, federal program directors and finance directors.

The Department launched a data collection tool in the eGMS Special Education Camera Application for school systems that received legislative funding allocations. Each school system must create an amendment to the current application to populate the data report.

School systems are asked to identify

- the number of parent requests for cameras they received;
- the number of approved parent requests; and
- the dollar amount of expenditures in 2022-2023 (receipts must be uploaded to match expenditures).

Data collection is due May 31. Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Notice of LLA Performance Audit of Special Education Services

Please be advised that the Louisiana Legislative Auditors (LLA) are currently conducting a broad performance audit of special education services in Louisiana.

Pursuant to R.S. 24:513, the Legislative Auditor has the authority to examine, audit, or review the books and accounts of the state treasurer, all public boards, commissions, agencies, departments, political subdivisions of the state, public officials and employees, public retirement systems, municipalities, and all other public or quasi public agencies or bodies. In addition, the legislative auditor shall have access to and be permitted to examine all papers, books, accounts, records, files, instruments, documents, films, tapes, and any other forms of recordation of all auditees, including but not limited to computers and recording devices, and all software and hardware which hold data, is part of the technical processes leading up to the retention of data, or is part of the security system.

Pursuant to R.S.17:3914 (C)(2)(b)(i), the student information privacy law, no official or employee of a city, parish, or other local public school system shall provide personally identifiable student information (PII) to any member of the school board or to any other person or public or private entity, except such an official or employee may, in accordance with applicable state and federal law provide to the state Department of Education, for the purpose of satisfying state and federal assessment, auditing, funding, monitoring, program administration, and state accountability requirements, information from which enough personally identifiable information has been removed such that the remaining information does not identify a student and there is no basis to believe that the information alone can be used to identify a student.

The LLA has requested the source data contained in the Special Education Reporting System (eSER) through a de-identified (PII masked) environment. LDOE has worked with its vendor to find a solution whereby the data in the eSER can be randomized so as to protect student privacy and satisfy the requirement of R.S.17:3914 (C)(2)(b)(i) that information may be shared for auditing purposes if enough personally identifiable information has been removed such that the remaining information does not identify a student and there is no basis to believe that the information alone can be used to identify a student.

If further information is needed, please feel free to contact Louisiana Legislative Auditor [Mike Waguespack](#) and/or LLA General Counsel [Jennifer Schaye](#).

Dyslexia Practitioner or Dyslexia Therapist Training

Please share with district leaders, 504 facilitators, and teachers.

The Dyslexia Resource Center offers training in Baton Rouge, Covington, Shreveport, and online towards certification as a dyslexia practitioner or dyslexia therapist. Extensive practicum experience is required in addition to coursework.

The dyslexia practitioner program prepares individuals to use best practices to provide instruction to students with dyslexia . Upon successful completion of the program, individuals will be eligible to apply to sit for the Alliance Exam at the Certified Academic Language Practitioner Level.

The dyslexia therapist program prepares individuals to implement Academic Language Therapy, provide professional development to faculty and staff on the characteristics of dyslexia, and help teachers implement best practices.

For more information complete the [Expression of Interest form](#) to attend one of the monthly informational webinars. The next webinar is [June 6 at 5:30 p.m.](#) Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov for more information.

Educator Development

2022-2023 Mentor Credential Waiver Application Closing

Please share with school leaders and school system leaders.

The [2022-2023 Mentor Waiver Application](#) should be submitted for any Mentor that must hold the waiver for the 2022-2023 school year before **June 9**. The **2023-2024** Mentor Credential Waiver Application will open on **July 7** for Mentors that need the waiver for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. As a reminder, Mentor Credential Waivers only apply for one school year. We encourage Mentors requesting the waiver for multiple years to consider completing the requirements to hold the [Mentor Certification](#). Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

New Teacher Experience: Summer Kick Off

Please share with school system leaders.

The Louisiana Department of Education will host a Summer Kick-off for the New Teacher Experience **July 26** from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. in Baton Rouge. The goals of the event are to

- welcome new teachers to the profession;
- understand the components of Louisiana's New Teacher Experience;
- engage in professional learning on topics relevant to new teachers; and
- provide statewide networking opportunities for new teachers .

Registration for this event will be first come, first served for 500 first year teachers. [Registration](#) will open **May 23** and close **July 6** or once capacity is reached.

School systems are encouraged to register newly hired 2023-2024 teachers or new teachers hired after last year's Summer Kick Off. New teachers may also self register. Please contact laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions.

Recruitment and Retention Using EdLink 360 at the 2023 Teacher Leader Summit

Please share with school system leaders, school leaders, and human resource directors.

The new iteration of the EdLink 360 Workforce Dashboard will be released at the Teacher Leader Summit. This session will focus on how systems and schools can use real-time data to make informed recruitment and retention decisions using the EdLink 360 Workforce Dashboard. Participants should bring their EdLink credentials and a laptop. Participants who do not have access to EdLink 360 should contact their systems' data managers. Please contact donna.baudoin@la.gov with questions.

CIS Evaluation Closeout for Teachers, Counselors, and Librarians

Please share with school system leaders, school leaders, human resource directors, and data managers.

Systems may begin finalizing teacher, counselor, and librarian evaluations. Systems are encouraged to complete all observation and Student Learning Target (SLT) data and obtain signatures from staff prior to summer break. Once the Compass Information System (CIS) rolls to the 2023-2024 school year in the fall, no teacher, counselor, or librarian evaluation data for the 2022-2023 school year can be added or amended. Please refer to the [CIS Evaluation Closeout](#) document to create a streamlined process; contact compass@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

READCamp: The Training Camp for Summer Reading

Please share with school and system leaders.

[READCamp](#) is a free virtual training camp for Summer Reading for PreK-8 students offered by the Share the Magic Foundation. During READCamp, students will tackle the “summer slide” with Super Bowl champion and head coach Malcolm Mitchell through participation in literacy-based training, drills, and practice. Please contact READcamp@readwithmalcolm.com with questions.

2023 Summer Literacy PD Regional Tour

Please share with literacy teachers and leaders.

The Literacy Division is embarking on another [Summer Regional PD Tour](#) with stops in every region of Louisiana. Topics include using screener data to improve core literacy instruction, using screener data to support literacy growth, and best practices in comprehension and fluency. All teachers, school and system leaders are invited to [register](#) for the stop on our tour that is most convenient for them. Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

2023 Family Summer Support Toolkit for Families

Please share with school leaders and school system leaders.

A family-friendly version of the [Family Summer Support Toolkit](#) provides families with ideas for literacy and math summer activities that can be done with K-3 students at home or in the community. Resources are also provided for families of children with disabilities and English language learners. Schools are asked to send the Toolkit home with families to support them in assisting their children during the summer. Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

School Improvement

Registration for School Support Institutes 2023-2024 Now Open

Please share with school system leaders and school leaders

[Registration](#) for School Support Institutes 2023-2024 is open until June 8. Each system with CIR schools should designate an SSI point of contact to ensure the registration of each CIR school. Each CIR school is required to register three members of its ILT for School Support Institutes. Leadership teams from UIR-A and unlabeled schools are also invited to register and attend. Please see our [SSI 2023-2024 Overview and Registration document](#) for more information. Please contact schoolimprovementdivision@la.gov with questions.