

# CHARTER SCHOOLS



January 31, 2018

## Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

A recent conversation with a group of superintendents reminded me of an important truth about our line of work: it's all about the plan. As leaders, we need to have priorities. And we have to have a sense as to how those priorities will become real for students, parents, and educators. The bridge between aspiration and reality is the plan. Effective classroom leaders, school leaders, district leaders, and state leaders always have thoughtful plans; in fact, many of you have already built out plans for your persistently struggling schools through your School Redesign application. I look forward to reviewing Round 2 applications that are due on March 1.

This week the annual state-local winter collaborations began in Baton Rouge. They will continue Thursday in New Orleans, and next week in Lafayette and Ruston. The collaborations, which occur several times over the course of the school year, are meant to provide school system leaders and principals with high-quality tools, resources, and professional development. At this moment in the annual planning cycle, those tools and trainings begin to focus on the 2018-2019 school year, helping the leaders of schools and school systems to articulate priorities, to design strategy, and to stay ahead of the implementation curve. When we are ahead of the curve, teachers are ahead of the curve; when teachers are ahead of the curve, the school year is simply more productive.

Sessions of interest at the collaborations this week and next include the new [secure reporting system for principals and superintendents](#), [accurate identification of students with disabilities](#), [supporting teacher residents](#), [understanding new STEM pathways](#) in high schools, and various curriculum updates. Supervisors will reconvene in March for a final set of collaborations to complete the planning process before the [Teacher Leader Summit](#), to be held May 29-June 1.

No parish and no school will ever have the same plan, but I hope the tools we are providing inform the plan you are putting in place for your students. The great challenge in education leadership is adapting universal principles of learning to the idiosyncratic challenges and opportunities that exist in each community. That process takes great time and effort. Done early and done well, it pays great dividends.

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

John  
Twitter [@LouisianaSupe](#)

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## Action Items for Charter Schools

Date	Action	Owner(s)
2/1/18	<a href="#">Submit</a> Intent to Form a Title III Consortium	School leaders
2/1/18	Submit Pupil Progression Plans	CEOs and School Leaders, and/or board presidents
2/9/18	Complete Health, Physical Education and Vending <a href="#">Survey</a>	CEOs
2/16/18	Submit <a href="#">Principal &amp; Teacher of the Year</a> applications	CEOs and School leaders
2/28/18	Submit Jumpstart <a href="#">Request for Applications</a>	School Leaders and Counselors
3/1/18	Submit <a href="#">School Redesign</a> Applications	CEOs and School Leaders
3/16/18	Submit initial transportation plan to Charters@la.gov	CEOs and School Leaders of Type 2 charters

## LEA Support

### **New: SRCL Webinar for Round 1 Subgrant Recipients**

The Department will host a webinar for Round 1 SRCL subgrant recipients on February 6, 2:15-3:00 p.m., to discuss funding priorities and the timeline for budgeting and accessing funds in eGMS.

- To join the webinar: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/srclsubgrantee/>
- Dial: 1-855-240-2575
- Participant code: 11573430

For questions about SRCL, contact Jill Slack at (225) 329-4995 or [jill.slack@la.gov](mailto:jill.slack@la.gov). For questions about accessing the webinar, contact Patsy Palmer at (225) 405-7621 or [patsy.palmer@la.gov](mailto:patsy.palmer@la.gov).

### **New: EAGLE Sets for Social Studies Released**

The Department released thirteen new item sets for social studies in EAGLE. EAGLE 2.0 is an online assessment tool that supports formative assessment in the classroom and can be used to enhance student learning throughout the year. To access the new item sets listed below, log on to [eDirect](#) and then filter the item bank by grade and subject.

Please contact [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov) with any questions.

### **New: Rescheduling EL Support Trainings**

**Please share with EL supervisors and teachers.**

The EL Support/ELA Guidebook 2.0 trainings have been rescheduled for February 26-27, at the East Baton Rouge Professional Development Center, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Additional seating is available for these trainings, and registration is available in [WisdomWhere](#). Previously registered participants do not need to re-register.

Contact [beverly.diaz@la.gov](mailto:beverly.diaz@la.gov) with any questions.

### **Reminder: February Accountability Commission Meeting**

The Accountability Commission will meet on February 2 at 1:00 p.m. in the Thomas Jefferson room at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge. The meeting will also be [live streamed](#) for individuals who are not able to attend the meeting in person.

Email [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

### **Reminder: 2018 LA Regional Science Bowl Registration**

The U.S. Department of Energy is looking for school teams to join the National Science Bowl being held at the University of New Orleans on March 10 from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

- There is no registration fee for the event, but teams will be selected on a first come, first served basis.
- The top four teams will receive cash prizes.
- First place winners will be invited on an all-expenses paid trip to compete for the national title in Washington DC.

### **Reminder: 2017-2018 Pupil Progression Plan Update**

Please share with school system supervisors.

The Department has developed a significantly streamlined [Pupil Progression Plan \(PPP\) template - Version 2.0](#) and [guidance](#)

The Department has developed a significantly streamlined [Pupil Progression Plan \(PPP\) template - version 2.0](#) and [guidance document](#) based on recent promotion [policy revisions approved by BESE](#) in October for grades 4 and 8. As a result of the delayed release, the submission deadline has been extended to February 1, 2018.

In response to feedback received from local school systems, the Department will propose at the December 2017 BESE meeting that the recently approved revisions to Bulletin 1566 with regard to summer remediation be revised to allow for teachers rated "Effective: Proficient," in addition to those rated "Highly Effective," be able to serve as summer remediation instructors.

For additional information, please contact [ppp@la.gov](mailto:ppp@la.gov).

## **Reminder: Round 2 School Redesign Application Available**

Beginning in 2017-2018, ALL school systems must submit a School Redesign plan. At a minimum, this plan must describe how the school system will:

- spend [Direct Student Services \(DSS\) grant](#) (3% of Title I Part A allocation)
- address the needs of any schools labeled Comprehensive Intervention Required, if applicable

Direct Student Services and the competitive three-year, School Redesign grant help school systems implement plans to improve their struggling schools.

This year, school systems that would like to apply for additional funds to support schools labeled Urgent Intervention Required may choose to submit a plan for these schools. Beginning in 2018-2019, school systems will be required to submit a plan for any schools with this label.

Refer to the [2018-2019 School System Planning Guide](#) for more information about the School Redesign application, which is due March 1, 2018. All round 2 materials can be found in the [School Redesign library](#).

## **Charter Monitoring**

### **Reminder: Transportation FAQ and Transportation Plans for Type 2 Charter Schools**

Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, BESE policy requires all state-authorized charter schools to provide transportation to and from school for all students living in the parish in which the school is located and who live more than 1 mile from the school.

The Office of Portfolio has created a [Transportation FAQ](#) document for all state-authorized charter schools to ensure that school leaders and boards have their questions answered and are informed of the specific responsibilities of providing transportation. This document will also assist schools that need to complete the RFP process for transportation providers for the 2018-19 school year.

Schools should review the [2018-19 Transportation Plan template](#) and submit an initial transportation plan by Wednesday, March 16th to [Charters@LA.gov](mailto:Charters@LA.gov).

Schools that have questions regarding transportation after reviewing the [Transportation FAQ](#) and initial Transportation Plan documents can reach out to [Charters@LA.gov](mailto:Charters@LA.gov).

## **Assessment and Accountability**

### **New: Science Field Test**

This spring, all school systems will participate in the LEAP 2025 science field test. In order to support school systems in their preparation for this test, the Department released the LEAP 2025 Science Field Test Guides in the [Assessment Guidance](#) library.

In early January, the Department hosted science field test webinars for teachers. These guides and webinars include:

- the new science assessment vision,
- the shifts in science instruction necessary for mastery of the new science standards,
- administration of the science field tests, and
- science field test design.

Science field test webinars were recorded. The presentations and recordings are available in the [Assessment Guidance](#) library.

### **New: LEAP 2025 and LEAP 360 Algebra I and Geometry Graphing Calculator**

All LEAP 2025 and LEAP 360 Algebra I and Geometry tests and resources (spring summative tests, practice tests, OTT, interim and diagnostic tests) now have a fully functional online graphing calculator available. This graphing calculator, provided by Desmos, permanently replaces the graphing tool that has been available. Desmos has a free online graphing calculator available at [www.desmos.com](http://www.desmos.com) that students can use with any internet capable device.

Hands-on practice with the new graphing calculator and information on student use of the math equation builder tool will be provided in the [Using Online Mathematics Assessment Tools](#) session at the January and February collaborations.

Please email [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

## **New: Reminders for District Testing Coordinators**

### **General**

- INSIGHT now includes a Desmos graphing calculator for all high school summative and nonsummative assessments. Updated Help files will be included for high school math Online Tools Trainings. Supervisors can learn more about the new Desmos online graphing calculator at the January/February collaborations.
- All changes to the role of District Test Coordinator, Backup District Test Coordinator, Accountability Contact, or Backup Accountability Contact or secure shipping address must be submitted using the [DTC and Accountability Contact Update](#) form.

### **LEAP 2025**

- Teacher Access versions for grades 3-8 practice tests are now available in eDIRECT.

### **LEAP 360**

- LEAP 360 Grades 3-8 Math Interim 2 is now available in INSIGHT for students.
- Interim School and Test Session Summary Reports are now available in [eDIRECT](#).
- January/February Principal and Supervisor Collaborations will include a LEAP 360: Making Connections session. The participants in this session will explore LEAP 360 Diagnostic and Interim assessments. This session will highlight ways that LEAP 360 can be used to encourage conversation and inform instruction and assessment.

### **English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT)**

- The ELPT assessment window is February 5 - March 16.
- Districts received ELPT materials January 23. The additional material window will open February 5. Additional material orders are placed through [TIDE](#).
- The ELPT [Accessibility and Accommodations Manual](#) is posted in the [ELPT Portal](#).
- Training Modules for the ELPT summative test are available in the Resources section of the [ELPT Portal](#).
- DTCs may access Security Checklists through [TIDE](#). Go to Paper Ordering, choose Order History, choose the "+" next to the name of the school, click Reports, and open the file labeled "Online\_SecurityChecklist."

### **LEAP Connect/LAA1**

- The LEAP Connect and LAA1 assessment window is February 5 - March 16.
- The additional materials window opened January 29. Additional material orders are placed through [eDIRECT](#).
- The LEAP Connect *Procedures for Assessing Students Who Are Blind, Deaf, or Deaf-Blind* guide is posted in [eDIRECT](#). The directions for grades 3-4 Foundation Reading sections will be securely shipped to LEAs.
- The LEAP Connect TA Quiz is posted in [eDIRECT](#). DTCs and STCs should use this as a part of test administration training.
- LEAP Connect/LAA1 Security Checklists are posted in [eDIRECT](#). Go to Report Delivery, choose View Reports, and choose the LEAP Connect/LAA1 Spring 2018 administration.
- Districts will receive all LEAP Connect materials by February 1.
- TAs should review the LEAP Connect DTA up to two days prior to the test to ensure they are prepared to administer the assessment.

### **ACT**

- **February 2** is the deadline to:
  - verify and upload students in to PANext
  - submit requests for ACT-approved accommodations in TAA
  - order ACT accommodated materials
  - install ProctorCache software and setup proctor caching in PANext for ACT online testing only

- DTCs are required to make changes to any school test coordinators in the district in PANext. Refer to the [PANext User Guide](#).
- The ACT Test Administration Q&A held on January 23 will be posted to the [ACT State Testing](#) site this week.

## **Assessment Administration Support and Training**

Assessment and Accountability Office Hours

- Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at 1:00 p.m.
- Webinar link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/assessment-accountability/>
- Phone Number: 1-646-307-1380; Participant PIN code: 89147656

## **Student Opportunities**

### **New: Jump Start Summers 2018 Request for Applications**

**Please share with School District Staff, School Administrators, Counselors, and Instructors.**

Last week, the Department released the 2018 Jump Start Summers [Request for Applications](#) to help students prepare for college, career, and life success through summer training sessions. The Department is seeking school systems, charter management organizations, and third-party course providers willing to sponsor summer training sessions in collaboration with industry partners. Priority review and consideration will be given to applications received by February 28th.

Program providers must have at least one committed industry partner willing to provide students with on-site job shadowing and/or internships with student stipends, in order to be considered for Course Choice SCA funding to launch and sustain their student summer training programs.

The Department will hold conference calls to outline the application and approval process and answer questions. Conference calls are scheduled for:

- When: January 31, at 4:00 p.m. and February 1, at 3:00 p.m.
- Call 1-855-240-2575
- Enter participant code: 45167329

Information about Jump Start Summers will be shared at the January and February Supervisor/Principal Collaborations. For additional information, or application requirements, please email [jumpstart@la.gov](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov).

### **New: 2018 Jump Start Convention Presentations Online**

Thank you for attending the 2018 Jump Start Convention. All session presentations may be found on the [All Things Jump Start web portal](#).

For more information, please email [jumpstart@la.gov](mailto:jumpstart@la.gov).

### **New: National School Counseling Week**

**Please share this information with school principals and counselors.**

[National School Counseling Week](#) is right around the corner! From February 5-9, schools across the country will be recognizing the role of professional school counselors. The Department will be sharing ideas and resources to let our Louisiana professional school counselors know how much we appreciate the valuable work they do to ensure the success of their students. Please follow the Department on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) for the latest information, and share your own posts to show us how you celebrate!

Please email [leslie.gilliland@la.gov](mailto:leslie.gilliland@la.gov) for more information.

## **Talent**

### **Reminder: Teacher and Principal of the Year Application Deadline Extended**

The 2019 Teacher and Principal of the Year application deadline has been extended to Friday, February 16, 2018. All applications and materials may be found on the [Department's website](#). Candidates may enter the application portal by following steps on the [online portal user guide](#).

**All charter associations are asked to select at least one teacher and one principal to participate in the state-level process.**

For questions, contact [excellenteducators@la.gov](mailto:excellenteducators@la.gov).

## Data

### **New: Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar**

**Please forward to data coordinators.**

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for data coordinators and data managers of SPC, SIS, SER, TSDL, STS, and AFR on Thursday, February 1, at 1:00 p.m. Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, enhancements, and best practices. No pre-registration is required.

To join the Data Coordinator Webinar at 1:00 p.m.

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dcw/>.
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Select the "listen only mode."

We understand some users may be attending face-to-face data management trainings at the regional collaborations during this time. For that reason, important updates from this presentation will also be included in those trainings.

The presentation will be posted on the INSIGHT coordinator's portal under Monthly DC Webinars by Wednesday, January 31. Please email [systemsupport@la.gov](mailto:systemsupport@la.gov) with questions.

### **Reminder: CSPR Part II Data Collection for Title I, Part A - LEADSPortal TIA**

The CSPR Part II Data Collection for Title I, Part A - LEADSPortal TIA files will be available via the Data Management FTP the week of January 15 (with usernames ending in @datamgmt) named "LEACode\_LEAName\_CSPR Part II Data Collection" will remain on the FTP until February 1, 2018. Please supply this information to the Title I manager.

Please contact [systemsupport@la.gov](mailto:systemsupport@la.gov) with FTP questions.

## Federal Programs

### **Reminder: Guidelines for Forming Title III Consortium**

Under Section 3114(b) of the ESEA, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, a state educational agency shall not award a Title III subgrant to a local educational agency (LEA) if the amount is less than \$10,000. However, LEAs that do not meet the \$10,000 threshold may form a consortium to qualify for these funds. LEAs must designate a member of the group to serve as the fiscal agent.

LEAs interested in forming a Title III consortium should review the following documents:

[Consortium guidelines](#)  
[Intent to Form a Title III Consortium](#)

The Intent to Form a Title III Consortium form must be completed and emailed to [ldgrants@la.gov](mailto:ldgrants@la.gov) on or before February 1.

For further assistance, contact at [melanie.mayeux@la.gov](mailto:melanie.mayeux@la.gov).

## Safe and Healthy Schools

### **Reminder: Flu Season Update**

The Louisiana Department of Public Health has released a [memo](#) updating Louisiana schools and day care centers of the severe flu season occurring across the state. If school or center leaders suspect a flu outbreak in their school or daycare, they should immediately contact the Louisiana Office of Public Health Infectious Disease Epidemiology Hotline at 800-256-2748 for assistance.

### **Reminder: Health, Physical Education, and Vending Survey**

As part of Revised Statute 17:17.4 and Senate Resolution 146, the Department is required to monitor and evaluate health and physical education and vending machine activities in school systems and provide an annual report to the Louisiana Legislature. Therefore, the Department is asking schools systems to complete a [survey](#) by February 9 to provide quality, accurate statewide data to the Senate and House Committees on Health and Welfare. Although school systems may collect information from multiple staff, only one person should complete the survey.

Please contact [michael.comeaux@la.gov](mailto:michael.comeaux@la.gov) with questions.

#### LDOE Contacts

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#### LDOE Links

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