

CHARTER SCHOOLS



February 15, 2018

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

In this week of celebration, I thought we should take a minute and highlight the accomplishments of some [highly deserving schools](#) and the accolades they've recently received.

The National Title I Conference was held last week in Philadelphia, and two Louisiana schools were honored. The Thomas Jefferson High School for Advanced Studies in Jefferson Parish and Belle Chasse Primary School in Plaquemines Parish were named National Title I Distinguished Schools, an honor bestowed upon schools across the nation that serve sizable numbers of economically disadvantaged students. At Jefferson, 93 percent of graduates complete college-level coursework or attain an industry based credential while in high school, earning the school an award in the category of "high achieving schools." Belle Chasse Primary was recognized in the category of "closing the achievement gap." The school has narrowed the proficiency gap between economically disadvantaged students and their peers by 11 percent over the past three years.

Another six Louisiana schools have been nominated to receive 2018 National Blue Ribbon Schools awards. Three of the nominees, recognized as "exemplary high performing schools," are T.S. Cooley Elementary Magnet School in Calcasieu Parish, Caddo Parish Magnet High School in Caddo Parish, and Lusher Charter School in Orleans Parish. The three other nominees are "exemplary achievement gap closing schools." They include Lewis Vincent Elementary School in Livingston Parish, Vacherie Elementary School in St. James Parish, and Montegut Elementary School in Terrebonne Parish. The nominated schools will now submit an application to the federal government for the award, and winners will be announced in the fall.

These schools are winners individually, but their stories represent the hard work that occurs in schools every day across our state. I was given the chance to voice a similar sentiment in a recent [opinion piece](#) published by the *Washington Post*. For as long as we have to go, we have come a long way, and we should take some time every once in a while to celebrate progress.

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)
2/16/18	Complete Health, Physical Education and Vending Survey	CEOs
2/16/18	Submit Principal & Teacher of the Year applications	CEOs and School leaders
2/19/18	Complete mid-year survey	CEOs and Single-site school leaders
2/28/18	Submit Jumpstart Request for Applications	School Leaders and Counselors
3/1/18	Submit School Redesign Applications	CEOs and School Leaders
3/12/18	Apply for New Student-Centered Funding Pilot Program	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: Charter School Mid-Year Survey due February 19, 2018

All charter CEOs received an email on February 1, 2018 with a link to the annual Charter School Mid-Year Survey. This survey is intended to provide principals and CEOs of charter schools with an opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions in order to continue to strengthen the Department of Education.

Surveys should be submitted using the link provided in the original email by February 19, 2018. If you need this link sent to you again, please reach out to Charters@LA.gov.

New: February School System Planning Call

The February School System Planning Call will take place on February 21 at 1:00 p.m. The following school system supervisors should participate:

- Early childhood supervisors
- District test coordinators and accountability contacts
- Data coordinators
- Curriculum supervisors
- Teacher Leader and mentor teacher supervisors
- High school and career and technical supervisors
- 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.

Email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: February Superintendents' Call

Superintendents are invited to participate in the Superintendents' Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White on **February 20, at 10:30 a.m.** You can begin dialing into the call 15 minutes in advance. Please follow the instructions below:

To join the Superintendents' February 20, 2018 Meeting:

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/suptscall/>
- Dial into the Phone Bridge: 877-475-0109
- When prompted, please give the Meeting ID #8467938
- You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting.

Reminder: Date Change for March Supervisor Collaborations

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Supervisor Collaboration originally scheduled on March 15 in Jefferson, will now be held on **March 23 in Baton Rouge** at the Claiborne Building. This change is reflected in the [School System Support Calendar](#).

Email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

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](#).

Assessment and Accountability

New: Reminders for District Testing Coordinators

General

- All changes to DTC or accountability staff must be submitted to LDOE using the [DTC and Accountability Contact Update](#) form found in the Assessment Library.

LEAP 2025

- Test Administrator and Coordinator Manuals for LEAP 2025 are posted in eDIRECT.

LEAP 360

- LEAP 360 Grades 3-8 Interim Assessment Form 2 for ELA is currently available for testing. Answer keys are available [eDirect](#). Under All Applications, select General Information and then Documents. Under Administration select Interim 2017-2018. To see the Answer Keys, you will select Answer Keys/Scoring.

English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT)

- The ELPT assessment window is February 5 - March 16.
- The additional material window is open and orders can be placed through [TIDE](#).
- The ELPT [Data Entry Interface Guide](#) (DEI) is posted in the [ELPT portal](#). The DEI is a component of the Online Testing System that allows authorized users to enter student assessment data, such as item responses and scores. Entering student data is required for the ELPT large print and Braille forms.
- Louisiana and AIR are now supporting Mac OS X 10.13 for ELPT testing. A Secure Browser for use with Mac computers running OS X 10.13 is now available for download on the [Secure Browser](#) page of the portal.

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](#).

ACT

- DTCs are required to make changes to any school test coordinators in the district in PANext. Refer to the [PANext User Guide](#).
- Feb. 5-March 14: Add students and update student information in PearsonAccessnext and place additional orders for initial ACT test materials
- Feb 5-March 16: Request ACT-approved accommodations on the ACT for eligible examinees through TAA using the ACT-Approved Late Consideration Form
- Feb. 16: Deadline to [Request Reconsideration](#) of ACT-approved accommodations on the ACT in TAA

WorkKeys

- Feb. 5-March 14: Order additional WorkKeys accommodations materials

Assessment Administration Support and Training

- The Assessment and Accountability Monthly call will be held on February 20, at 1:00 p.m.
- To join the webinar:
 - go to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/assessment-accountability/> or
 - call: 1-646-307-1380 and enter participant PIN code: 89147656.

Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Grade, Subject, and Subgroup Indices Available in Principal and Superintendent Secure Reporting Portal

The Principal and Superintendent Secure Reporting Portal has been updated to include grade, subject, and subgroup indices simulated under the new accountability formula based on 2016-2017 results. This information can be found by clicking "View Details" under the relevant data section, or by exporting the data file.

Additionally, a statewide summary of average 2016-2017 index scores by school letter grade simulated under the new accountability formula is now available under the "Accountability Results Summary" section by clicking on the last question.

As a reminder, the following resources are available to support superintendents and principals in accessing and navigating the secure portal:

- [Webinar recording](#)
- [Login quick reference guide](#)
- [User guide](#)

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

High School Pathways

New: 2018-2019 Dual Enrollment Policy Update

Please share with high school supervisors, principals, and counselors.

The Louisiana Board of Regents recently approved new [minimum requirements](#) for dual enrollment coursework. The new policy addressed course content and rigor, faculty qualifications, and student eligibility.

Additionally, the Board adopted a revision to the minimum requirements for entry-level, college-level mathematics and English. The [revised policy](#) defines the threshold for access to entry-level, college-level courses. [Alternative minimum scores](#) are offered for college-level enrollment and have been amended to include ACCUPLACER in addition to those instruments previously identified.

In lieu of the process listed above, a college or university may propose its own alternate placement system, but such a system must be validated on the principle that students shall meet, at a minimum, the same level of academic achievement as would have been defined by equivalent scores on the ACT.

For additional information please contact highschoolacademics@la.gov.

New: Micro-Enterprise Credential Webinar

Please share with principals, counselors, and Micro-Enterprise instructors.

The Department will host a webinar concerning updates on the Micro-Enterprise Regional and Statewide Credentials. Information on instructor registrations and trainings, instructional resources, ordering and administering assessments, and ordering credentials will be disseminated in this webinar. Schools offering the Micro-Enterprise credential to students should participate in the webinar. The webinar will be held on **February 20, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. and February 21, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.**

To join the webinar:

- go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/mec2018/> and
- enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.

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

New: Advanced Placement Data and Resources Webinar

Please share with new and experienced Advanced Placement teachers.

The Advanced Placement (AP®) program provides students with an opportunity to earn college credit at thousands of universities nationwide for a fraction of the cost of a college course.

To support AP teachers in administration of these courses, both **new and experienced teachers are encouraged to [participate in a webinar on February 27, from 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.](#)** This College Board led webinar will explore state and national updates related to the AP program, a review of the AP Instructional Planning Report, and an overview of best practices in exam preparation.

To join the webinar:

- enter the [meeting room](#);
- provide the meeting access code: 637 378 847; and
- provide the password: BuZJbN4x.

For additional information please contact highschoolacademics@la.gov.

Reminder: Counselor Collaborations Start This Week

Please share with school counselors.

The Counselor Collaborations kick off in Network A this week. Topics include:

- Assessment Checklists
- Graduation Cohorts
- Individual Graduation Plans
- March2Success
- Financial Aid Planning
- Dual Enrollment and AP Physics Policy
- Direct Student Services

School systems in Networks B and C can still register in [Wisdomwhere](#) for an event nearest you.

Email stephanie.marcum@la.gov for more information.

Student Opportunities

Reminder: 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.

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.

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.

Special Education

Reminder: Revised High Cost Services State Plan

The [2017-2018 High Cost Services State Plan](#) has been updated with a technical amendment in order to ensure the MFP is deducted only once when applying the allocation methodology. The updated plan is linked above for your review.

If you have feedback or questions about the revisions, please contact lindsey.mingo@la.gov before COB this Friday, February 9.

Early Childhood

Reminder: Training for the New Child Care Civil Background Check System Webinar

School systems and charter schools with licensed early learning centers and those offering services to early learning centers are invited to attend the upcoming Child Care Civil Background Check System webinars on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. and Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. These webinars will include the same information on how to login, set up an account, apply for a background check, monitor background checks, get results, and check eligibility. Please keep in mind, the background check changes will go into effect March 1, 2018.

- To join the webinar: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/earlychildhood/>
- Dial: 1-855-240-2575

For more information about Child Care CBCs, please email valerie.black@la.gov.

Policy

Reminder: January 2018 BESE Meeting Summary

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met on January 24 and approved a number of bulletin revisions and recommendations. Please see the [January 2018 BESE Summary](#) for the approvals that directly impact the activities of local school systems.

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

Federal Programs

Reminder: Final ESSA and IDEA Allocations

Final allocations for the ESSA and IDEA Consolidated Application will be uploaded to eGMS in the next week. As noted during the Superintendents' Conference Call on December 7, final allocations account for the following adjustments:

- Reductions in the final ESSA, IDEA, and Perkins state awards appropriated by Congress
- Adjustments for revisions to student counts

- Adjustments for new and existing charter schools
- Distribution of the reserve once the previous adjustments are concluded

Once final allocations are uploaded to eGMS, LEAs will have to amend their applications to reflect the new allocation amounts. Budgets must be amended before new reimbursement claims may be submitted.

If you have any questions about the amendment process, please contact LDOE.GrantsHelpdesk@la.gov.

Reminder: New Student-Centered Funding Pilot Program

U.S Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced a pilot program that will grant school districts new flexibility to create equitable, student-centered funding systems. With this flexibility, school districts can combine eligible federal funds with state and local funds to create a single, student-centered funding system based on weights for students from low-income families, English learners, and other educationally disadvantaged student groups.

The Department can approve up to 50 school districts to participate in this pilot program authorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The official application will be opened February 7, 2018. For applicants intending to use the flexibility during the 2018-2019 school year, the application is due by March 12, 2018. For applicants intending to use the flexibility during the 2019-2020 school year, the application is due by July 15, 2018.

Please visit <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/scfp/studentcentered.html> for more information.

Safe and Healthy Schools

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.

The Department has not received completed surveys from all LEAs or Charter schools. Therefore, **the Department is asking schools systems to complete the [survey](#) by February 16** 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 with questions.

LDOE Contacts

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