

CHARTER SCHOOLS



February 21, 2018

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

There are no adequate words to capture, analyze, or respond to what was done at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, last week. Watching footage or reading accounts from February 14 and the days after hits us on every level: emotionally, intellectually, morally, spiritually.

As educators and community leaders, our responsibility is to keep thinking and to keep acting. Whatever our views on what causes an individual to be so destructive, or on what rights he has to acquire the capacity to kill, our responsibilities call us to ensure that we have accounted for everything in our power that might be used to protect the children of our state.

For me, that starts with acknowledging that for many children in Louisiana, lethal violence against human beings is a regular part of life. While we have not experienced a shooting spree of the sort seen in Parkland, thousands of children in Louisiana grow up with the sound of shots close by, not fired for sport but fired to murder. These shootings generate less news, and the factors surrounding them are in some ways different; but the intent to create death is the same, and the cumulative effect on children is unconscionable and unfathomable.

My mind next goes to young people who commit violent acts. Nearly invariably, the act of killing is not the first act of violence. Nearly invariably, the killer's life has been marked by movement and instability. Nearly invariably, he was known to be lost before he decided to take a life. The public school system is not intended to be the primary social services agency or healthcare provider. But in addition to the home, and sadly sometimes even more than the home, it is the place around which the child or the adolescent orders his life. And so we must pay extraordinary attention to those children and adolescents who are unable to co-exist and be productive in school. When they are expelled, when they are suspended, when we refer them for services, even if we must refer them to law enforcement, we should be confident that they are taking a step toward a place that will assist in resolving their issues.

I have also noticed that a new voice has emerged in recent weeks: students speaking, writing, and demonstrating. There will be young voices on many sides of this issue. I hope they will continue in a manner that is both impassioned and empathetic, both vigorous and well-reasoned. In recent years, adults in America have failed to set a good example of responsible discourse in a democratic republic. If this is a defining moment for a new generation and a better version of the public square, I am all for it. I hope we will encourage it in our students.

Finally, I pray that terror not be visited on the schools and school children of Louisiana. And I pray that we leaders assure that all provisions have been made for their protection. Crisis management plans should be in place for every school, updated annually through collaboration with local law enforcement and other first responders. The courage and preparedness educators showed in Parkland was remarkable if not surprising. The same has been true in disasters of different kinds in Louisiana, and I have no doubt it will always be this way when we are visited by tragic events.

Vigilant leadership acknowledges not just the possibility of gun violence in schools but the reality of its presence in communities today. Vigilant leadership provides assurance that the approach to behavioral and mental health intervention is focused on addressing the root cause of a child's issues. Vigilant leadership empowers students to speak, just as it prepares for the worst of possible scenarios. I pray today that you might be vigilant leaders amidst this horrible issue affecting our country.

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

John

Twitter [@LouisianaSupe](https://twitter.com/LouisianaSupe)

Action Items for Charter Schools

LEA Support

Assessment and Accountability

High School Pathways

Student Opportunities

Policy

Federal Programs

Safe and Healthy Schools

Action Items for Charter Schools

Date	Action	Owner(s)
2/23/18	Complete Health, Physical Education and Vending Survey	CEOs
2/26/18	Verify/update anticipated graduates for diploma orders	School leaders, Counselors and Data Coordinators
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: Registration Open for March Supervisor Collaborations

[Register](#) for the [March Supervisor Collaborations](#) by Friday, March 2. Registration for the March 14 and March 23 collaborations are on a first come, first served basis. Register early to reserve your spot!

To register for the March events, please use code **MARSUP18**.

Please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

New: Statewide Teacher Recruitment Campaign Launched This Week

This week the Department launched a statewide teacher recruitment campaign, [Be A Teacher LA](#), designed to elevate the teaching profession and increases the number of high school graduates and college students who enroll in undergraduate teacher preparation programs.

The campaign, targeted towards high school juniors and seniors and college freshmen and sophomores, will be promoted across the state through:

- radio, television and social media advertisements,
- outdoor billboards, news releases,
- news stories, and
- public support through campaign champions like Governor and First Lady Edwards, Louisiana Teacher of the Year Kim Eckert and many other educators and education advocates.

The announcement was broadcasted live on [Facebook](#) at 8:00 a.m. The Department encourages all school systems to join in on the campaign and help elevate the teaching profession by sharing inspirational stories and messages on social media about teachers using the hashtag #BeATeacherLA.

Campaign materials such as videos, social graphics, media kit, and website button and banners will be available starting tomorrow in the Department's [newsroom](#). Email excellenteductors@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

WorkKeys

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

Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

High School Pathways

New: 2017-2018 Graduate Diploma Orders

Please share with principals, counselors, and data coordinators.

The Department is in the process of ordering diplomas for 2017-2018 graduates. A Diploma Order file has been created which contains the number of anticipated graduates by Diploma pathway and has been placed on the DM FTP in each LEA's folder. Filename: (LEACODE)_2017-18 Diploma Orders.xls

To ensure your LEA receives the correct number of diplomas (for students in grade 12 and any grade 11 early graduates), please verify the information for each high school and make any needed updates in the file. Rename the file and save to the DM FTP. Verify/Update and Save As Filename: (LEACODE)_2017-18 Diploma Orders VERIFIED.xls

It is important to complete your updates no later than Monday, February 26, 2018.

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

New: Financial Aid Planning Webinar

Please share with high school counselors and JAG Specialists.

How do your FAFSA rates compare to others? Do you need assistance with increasing FAFSA rates in your school? We are here to help. We are offering a Financial Aid Planning Webinar to discuss what you should know about the FAFSA, the top FAFSA rates in the state, frequent FAFSA errors, and best practices for increasing FAFSA submission rates. The webinar will be held on Monday, February 26, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

To join the webinar go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/r3il5f9s1c0s/>.

For more information, please contact ldefinicalaid@la.gov.

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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.

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.

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, PEP, and STS on Thursday, March 1, at 1:00 p.m. Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, enhancements, and best practices. No pre-registration is required.

To join the webinar:

- go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dcw/>;
- enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name; and
- select the "listen only mode."

The presentation will be posted on the INSIGHT coordinator's portal under Monthly DC Webinars by Wednesday, February 28.

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

New: Graduation Cohort Tracking Report

Louisiana's goal is that by 2025, at least 90 percent of students will graduate high school in four years. Graduation rates make up half of the high school accountability formula, and schools that graduate less than two-thirds of students are flagged for intervention.

To support schools and school systems in ensuring students are on track to graduate in four years, the Graduation Cohort Tracking Report provides data on how well students are progressing toward on-time high school graduation.

The report is intended to be used for planning purposes, and to highlight corrections that are needed in the School Information System (SIS) that will ultimately be used in school accountability calculations.

The Graduation Cohort Tracking Report will be released in two reports.

- There is a school system and school-level data files that summarize student-level data. These data will be made available in the new [secure reporting system for principals and superintendents](#).
- There is also a student-level report that provides the on-track status of individual students as well as the risk factors students may have such as performance on state assessments, overage for the grade enrolled, discipline incidences, mobility, and absenteeism.

These data will be made available on the school system's FTP. Both reports are planned for release by the end of next week, and additional details will be provided in next week's newsletter.

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Federal Programs

New: National Center for Homeless Education Webinars

The National Center for Homeless Education will hosts a series of webinars during the months of February and March. The webinars will focus on issues related to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. During NCHE webinars, presenters explain important concepts, while also giving participants the opportunity to ask questions and interact with other attendees from around the country.

Registration and additional information can be found on the [NCHE website](#). Please contact antiqua.hunter@la.gov with questions.

Upcoming Webinars:

Tuesday, February 27, 2018 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET	Supporting the Education of Unaccompanied Homeless Students under ESSA
Thursday, March 8, 2018 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET	Determining McKinney-Vento Eligibility under ESSA
Wednesday, March 21, 2018 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET	McKinney-Vento School Selection Rights Under ESSA
Friday, March 23, 2018 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM ET	NCHE Coffee Break: Understanding Doubled-Up
Tuesday, March 27, 2018 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET	McKinney-Vento 101: Understanding the Rights of Students Experiencing Homelessness

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 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

Final 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 school systems. **The survey will close on February 23rd so the Department is asking schools systems to complete the [survey](#) on or before this date.** The survey will allow the Department 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.

STAY CONNECTED

