

CHARTER SCHOOLS



February 28, 2018

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

The quality of our schools is inextricably linked to the skills of our educators. Where there is growth in the knowledge and skills of children, there is always a strong academic plan implemented by a knowledgeable team of adults. So it is a challenge to school quality everywhere - and in rural and low-income areas, in particular - when the teaching profession is unable to keep up with other professions in the race for talent.

To be sure, it's not easy to keep up. Today's economy distributes unprecedented economic rewards to well-educated Americans. Private sector industries most prevalent in Louisiana - energy, chemicals, transportation, healthcare, and information technology - offer their most educated workers lifetimes of lucrative compensation, travel, and professional growth. The race for talent keeps getting longer and more intense.

Like anyone else, teachers seek financial security and the capacity to provide for their families. When teacher compensation levels stagnate, therefore, and when more lucrative jobs abound, there will be less interest in making a career of teaching. [Recent news](#) that the average teacher salary in our state has fallen below salaries in peer states is unfortunate news for this reason.

At the same time, research and common sense tell us that teachers do not choose their vocation because of its financial benefits. Among the many reasons people choose to teach are the work's contribution to society, their love of children, and the ability to work alongside similarly dedicated professionals.

To elevate the profession in the mind of high school students and college students, the Department last week [launched](#) a media campaign called "[Be a Teacher LA](#)". The campaign will involve digital shorts, social media posts, billboards, radio spots, and other media opportunities meant to highlight the important calling to teach and the irreplaceability of great teachers. It's our hope that, if the campaign proves successful, it will continue past this school year.

You can find the campaign on social media at #BeATeacherLA. You can also access the campaign's videos and social media graphics on our [asset page](#). I hope that you and your school system will expand the campaign by sharing these videos on social media, using them at recruiting events, and adding the website button to [Be A Teacher LA](#) on your website.

More than that, I hope you'll keep doing all you can to remind prospective teachers that there are few vocations they can choose whose calling is to pass knowledge through the generations and to build a better tomorrow for our communities and our country. Great teaching truly is irreplaceable.

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)
2/28/18	Submit Jumpstart Request for Applications	School leaders and counselors
2/28/18	Complete survey for High School Math & Stem Opportunities	CEOs and school leaders
3/1/18	Submit School Redesign Applications	CEOs and school leaders
3/2/18	View Alternate Assessment Preliminary Results via FTP	Special education coordinators
3/9/18	Email completed Diploma Order Form to jumpstart@la.gov	CEOs and school leaders, diploma and transcript coordinators, and school counselors
3/12/18	Apply for New Student-Centered Funding Pilot Program	CEOs and school leaders
3/16/18	Submit transportation plan to Charters@la.gov	CEOs and school leaders of Type 2 charters
3/30/18	Submit Seed to Plate Nutrition Education Award applications .	Elementary school leaders in Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Monroe, New Orleans, and the Northshore
4/9/18	Submit Outstanding School Support Employee Awards Program (OSSE) applications .	School Leaders

LEA Support

New: Statewide Teacher Recruitment Campaign Launches

Please share with principals, counselors and teachers.

On February 21, the Department [launched](#) a statewide teacher recruitment campaign, [Be A Teacher LA](#), designed to elevate the teaching profession and increase the number of high school graduates and college students who enroll in undergraduate teacher preparation programs.

The campaign, targets 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 John Bel Edwards, Louisiana Teacher of the Year Kim Eckert and many other educators and education advocates.

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, and website button and banners are available in the Department's [newsroom](#).

Please contact excellenteductors@la.gov with questions.

New: March School System Planning Call

The March School System Planning Call will take place on March 7 at 1:00 p.m. The following school system supervisors should participate:

- Early childhood supervisors
- District test coordinators and accountability contacts
- Curriculum supervisors
- Special Education Supervisors
- Federal Program Supervisors

- Teacher Leader and mentor teacher supervisors
- High school and career and technical supervisors

To join the webinar:

- go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dpc> and
- enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name; or
- dial 1-855-240-2575 and enter PIN # 89147656.

Please contact districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

New: High School Math and STEM Opportunities

Every high school student should have access to high quality Math and STEM courses. Schools and teachers have three new options for the 2018-2019 school year:

- Intensive Algebra I
- Statistical Reasoning
- LSU STEM Pathways

To find out more information about all three new offerings, [click here](#). If you are interested in implementing any of these options, complete this [survey](#) by February 28. Completing the survey does not commit you to implementing; it allows us to streamline communications to those interested.

Please contact louisianastandards@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 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.

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

New: Updated 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 an updated [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

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

Assessment and Accountability

New: Information 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

- Schools that need to test past 4:00 PM during spring testing must email the school's site code to assessment@la.gov by March 6th.

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.

ELPT

- The ELPT assessment window is February 5 - March 16.
- The additional material window is open and orders can be placed through [TIDE](#).

LEAP Connect/LAA1

- The LEAP Connect and LAA1 assessment window is February 5 - March 16.
- The additional materials window is open and orders can be placed through [eDIRECT](#).

ACT

- Feb. 26 - March 2: Districts will receive ACT and WorkKeys for initial testing, if the alternate shipping date was selected for the school.
- Once materials arrive - March 19: Schools will conduct sessions for examinees to complete non-test information on the answer document for paper testing.

High School Pathways

New: Jump Start Super Summer Institute

Please share with CTE supervisors and school administrators.

Registration for the 2018 Jump Start Super Summer Institute (SSI) opens on March 26, 2018 and closes on May 1, 2018. Sessions for basic and statewide credentials will be offered at multiple locations and dates around the state.

The Department will pay training costs and provide lunch for educators attending SSI. Districts are responsible for all travel expenses, textbooks, and a registration fee (\$250/educator) for which districts may use their Career Development Funds (CDF) or 2017-2018 Carl Perkins Funds.

Please direct all questions about Super Summer Institute to jumpstart@la.gov.

New: Career Development Fund Update

Please share with CTE supervisors and business managers.

Career Development Fund (CDF) payments were sent to school systems with their February MFP remittances.

Now available for planning purposes is the list of [2018-2019 CDF-qualifying courses](#) and [an updated memo outlining the new way that CDF allocations](#) will be paid next year, providing the majority of CDF allocations at the start of the school year to maximize student opportunities for the coming school year.

Before the end of the 2017-2018 fiscal year school systems need to submit a CDF Year-End Report indicating how they have spent their CDF funds, including all carryover funds from prior years. A spreadsheet indicating the CDF funds all school systems have received to-date is available upon request. All requests for this information should be sent to jumpstart@la.gov.

Please go to the [Policy & Program Implementation section](#) of the All Things JumpStart web portal for a recording of the CDF Technical Review Webinar, and to download all CDF-related resources.

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

New: 2017-2018 Certificate of Achievement Orders

Please share with superintendents, diploma and transcript coordinators, principals and school counselors.

Beginning with 2016 graduates, submission of the "Documentation For A Certificate of Achievement" form is not required due to Louisiana's student privacy law (R.S. 17:3914) that provides for limitations and prohibitions on the collection and sharing of student information. School Systems will continue ensuring that students exiting with a Certification of Achievement are indicated in the Special Education Reporting (SER) System and Student Information System (SIS).

Please use the [Diploma Order Form](#) to request Certificates of Achievement. Only one order form should be submitted for each school system. Lab schools, Type 2 and Type 5 charter schools, special schools and non-public schools should also submit a diploma order form for certificate of achievement.

Please email completed order forms by March 9 to jumpstart@la.gov. If there are any questions related to diplomas, please contact zoa.bain@la.gov.

Reminder: 2017-2018 Graduate Diploma Orders

Updates to the Diploma Order file were due this past Monday, February 26, 2018. If you have not uploaded your file to the FTP site, please email the file to jumpstart@la.gov by Friday, March 2. The file should be named: **(LEACODE)_2017-18 Diploma Orders VERIFIED.xls**.

Special Education

New: Alternate Assessment Preliminary Results

Please share with special education supervisors.

The Department has completed a preliminary review of schoolsystems with more than 1.7 percent of students with disabilities participating in an alternate assessment during the 2016-2017 school term. A copy of these results will be available via FTP in the folder titled Alternate Assessment on Friday, March 2, 2018.

For student specific questions, a designated point of contact has been included as part of the alternate assessment FTP file. In addition, instructions and next steps have been included as part of the information provided to applicable LEAs on the FTP. For general questions, please contact angela.randall@la.gov.

New: Join the Special Education Leader Monthly Webinar

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for school system directors, supervisors, and coordinators of special education on Thursday, March 8, at 2:00 p.m. Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, guidance, and training opportunities.

To join the webinar:

- go to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/specialedmar18/>;
- dial: 1-855-240-2575; and
- enter participant code: 30160130.

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

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New: Special Education Parent Surveys to Be Distributed to School Systems

Each year, the Department samples a group of school systems to participate in a parent survey, as required by the IDEA. The parent survey measures how school systems engage parents to improve services and results for students with disabilities.

The Department notified school systems included in the 2017- 2018 school year parent survey via email last week, and will mail survey packages during the last week of February. School systems should receive survey packages in early March, and should plan to distribute surveys to parents using their preferred method.

Please contact ashley.augustine@la.gov with questions.

Data

Reminder: 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 is posted on the INSIGHT coordinator's portal under Monthly DC Webinars.

Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Federal Programs

New: Public Notice of Waiver Request

Please forward this item to federal program directors, business managers, and financial officials of public school districts.

The Department is requesting an extension of the period of availability for FY 2015 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) program.

In order to extend the period of availability beyond September 30, 2017, the Department is requesting a waiver under Section 8401 of ESEA to extend the period of availability of FY 2015 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) for the SEA and all of its LEAs to September 30, 2020.

Relevant personnel should review this waiver request and contact john.hanley@la.gov by Friday, March 9, 2018 with questions.

New: Supplement Not Supplant Provisions, Schoolwide Accountability, and Utilizing Flexibility Webinar

The Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA): Supplement Not Supplant Provisions, Schoolwide Accountability, and Utilizing Flexibility Webinar will be held on March 13 at 12:00 p.m. This webinar is designed specifically for the Louisiana Department of Education and will cover a variety of topics regarding ESSA, including:

- Technical requirements related to Title I supplement not supplant, as well as examples. LEAs with multiple school sites must have supplement not supplant methodology in place for the 2018-2019 school year.
- ESSA flexibility with respect to how districts rank and serve schools, the spending of administrative funds, and requirements for transferring funds
- Recent findings by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Inspector General related to accountability and documentation for schoolwide funds

Reminder: 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:

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

New: Grant Opportunity: Seed to Plate Nutrition Education Award

Recipe for Success Foundation in partnership with United Health Care Foundation has announced a grant opportunity to support the implementation of a school-based nutrition education program in Louisiana.

The Seed to Plate Nutrition Education Award grants will provide training, curriculum and select supplies for three years. One campus will be selected in each of the following Louisiana communities: Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Monroe, New Orleans, and the Northshore.

Elementary schools in these five communities may apply by submitting an [online application](#) by March 30.

Please contact andi@recipe4success.org with questions.

New: Outstanding School Support Employee Awards Program Accepting Applications

The Outstanding School Support Employee Awards Program (OSSE) is accepting [applications](#) through April 9.

Please contact dana.dauzat@la.gov with questions. For more information on the OSSE, please [click here](#).

STAY CONNECTED

