

CHARTER SCHOOLS



May 9, 2018

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you're having a good Teacher Appreciation Week. It's inspiring to see schools and school systems across the state celebrating teachers on social media, holding events, making important awards, and continuing to professionalize teaching. I spent a great day yesterday in Richland and Lincoln parishes observing some of the extraordinary work they're doing on [residency models](#) for new teachers. Thanks to all of you who have made that important work possible.

In other news, the state will release the statewide four-year graduation rate and credentialing rate Thursday of this week. The report will include the cohort rates for individual school systems and schools as well. You will receive your school system and school-level data tomorrow evening. The statewide story will be one of progress and of the need for more progress. But it is an encouraging story, and there has been a lot of hard work behind it.

Later this week, the state will also announce that 50 days remain until financial aid form counts will be taken. All students graduating from public high schools this year are required to submit a [state](#) or [federal](#) financial aid form, a hardship [waiver](#), or a [signed letter](#) from parents who wish not to seek financial aid. The response from Louisiana's students and families has been overwhelmingly positive. Already Louisiana is a [national leader](#), and thousands more students will have their job training or college tuition paid for as a result. But we still have several thousand students left to go.

If you would like to have financial aid form support stations at your schools before or after graduation ceremonies so that parents can complete the forms, please contact [Ken Bradford](#). If parents are signing a letter of non-participation, please make sure letters are signed and stored for graduation cohort verification. With your leadership, we will make sure every student who wants financial support for future training or education receives that support.

There is a lot to celebrate this time of year. Let's make sure high school graduation is just one of many future celebrations for every young adult in Louisiana.

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

John
Twitter [@LouisianaSupe](#)

In This Issue:

[Action Items for Charter Schools](#)

[LEA Support](#)

[Assessment and Accountability](#)

[High School Pathways](#)

[Educator Preparation](#)

[Special Education](#)

[Data](#)

Action Items for Charter Schools

Date	Action	Owner(s)
5/15/18	Submit SY2017-18 amendments for 8(g) grants	Grants coordinators
5/18/18	Register for Teacher Leader Summit (registration date subject to change)	School leaders and teacher leaders
5/18/18	Complete teacher roster verification in the CVR portal	Data coordinators
5/18/18	Complete Heroin and Opioid Prevention Education Survey	Wellness/health teachers, coordinators, or supervisors
5/30/18	Complete SPED Contact form	School leaders, SPED coordinators, and staff responsible for AEPS
5/31/18	Submit 2019 ESSA MOE Verification and 2019 IDEA MOE Verification (Eligibility Review)	Federal Programs Coordinator
5/31/18	Submit 2018-19 BESE Regulation Waiver Requests	CEOs and School leaders
6/1/18	Register for JAG seminar	District supervisors, school administrators and JAG-LA Specialists.
6/8/18	Complete Data Systems Customer Satisfaction Survey	Data managers
6/30/18	Submit budget for High Cost Services Round 1 or Round 2 in eGMS.	Grant coordinators and SPED Coordinators
6/30/18	Submit 2018-2019 Pupil Progression Election Form	CEOs
8/31/18	Submit 2017-18 CTE data	CEOs, Career and Technical Education supervisors/coordinators, school leadership, and professional school counselors

LEA Support

Reminder: Join the Compass 2017-2018 End of Year Webinar

The Department is hosting a webinar on May 10 at 1:00 p.m. to provide Compass guidance to close out the 2017-2018 school year. The webinar will include information related to completing final evaluations and expectations for entering data into CIS. This includes how CIS will calculate VAM data and what is required of CIS users.

Additionally, more information about compass related sessions that will be offered at the Teacher Leader Summit and more information about training opportunities for new evaluators over the summer will be discussed.

To join the webinar (no preregistration is required):

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

Please email compass@la.gov for more information.

Reminder: Registration for 2018 Teacher Leader Summit Now Open

Please share with principals and Teacher Leaders.

The [2018 Teacher Leader Summit](#) will take place Wednesday, May 30 through Friday, June 1 at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. This event will bring together 6,500 educators and content experts from across the state to share their

knowledge, and learn new skills to ensure meaningful growth for every child, every day in 2018-2019.

Registration for the Summit is now open in [WisdomWhere](#) and is based on a first come, first served basis, with a small subset of sessions requiring pre-registration. Registration will close in mid-May.

In Louisiana, we believe that all students, even those that struggle the most, should have access to the best education. At this year's Teacher Leader Summit, **educators will have the opportunity to choose from over [300 sessions](#) led by content experts, and should plan to attend all three days.** Approximately 70 percent of sessions will focus on topics relevant to classroom teachers, therefore school systems are encouraged to ensure approximately 70 percent of their attendees are current classroom teachers.

This year's event will also include "Ed Talks," a series of nationally recognized speakers and accompanying session tracks that will provide schools and school systems with innovative strategies to best support struggling students and schools. Details will be provided in early May via the newsletters.

Contact your Teacher Leader coordinator for information about attending this year's Summit, or contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with additional questions about the event.

Reminder: 2018 Teacher Leader Summit T-Shirts

Looking for a way to show your Teacher Leader pride at this year's Summit? Then order your 2018 [Teacher Leader t-shirt](#) by **May 21** to receive it before the event! A limited number of t-shirts will also be available for purchase at the Summit.

Email louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

New: Action Items and Important Information for District Testing Coordinators

General

- All changes to district test coordinators (DTCs) or accountability contacts must be submitted to the Department using the [DTC and Accountability Contact Update](#) form found in the Assessment Library.

LEAP 360

- LEAP 360 Interim Assessment District Item Response Files, School Test Session Summary Reports, and Test Session Summary Reports were posted for all forms on May 7. The remaining scheduled postings will be May 21, June 4, and June 18.

LEAP 2025

- Now - May 18: LEAP 2025 high school computer-based testing window
- May 8: PBT Materials pickup 1
- May 9: Test invalidations and void forms due to assessment@la.gov
- May 10: PBT Materials pickup 2
- May 12-19: PBT Materials pickup 3
- DTCs should ensure schools are running the readiness check before testing each day. Schools should open INSIGHT, select the purple check mark in the bottom left corner, and type 7745. If the screen does not show all green check marks, the technology coordinator should be notified.
- DTCs needing the unsent response flags cleared can now contact the Department assessment hotline to have those flags removed. Please check and ensure all responses are cleared from the TSM prior to calling the Department.
- Any school needing extended day times for test during the summer LEAP 2025/EOC administration should email assessment@la.gov by May 11.

ACT and WorkKeys

- May 2 - Pre-scheduled FedEx pickup for ACT test materials from the accommodations makeup test date. (May 10 - deadline for ACT to receive materials. Late arriving materials will not be scored.)

LEAP Connect/LAA1

- The [Parent Guide to the LEAP Connect Student Reports](#) has been posted in the [Assessment Library](#).
- LEAP Connect/LAA 1 results will be available in [eDIRECT](#) in May. For directions on viewing score reports, reference pages 90-94 of the eDIRECT User Guide posted under General Information in [eDIRECT](#).

ELPT

- The [Parent Guide to the ELPT Student Reports](#) has been posted in the [Assessment Library](#).
- ELPT results will be available in the [Online Reporting System](#) in May. An Online Reporting System User Guide will be posted to the [ELPT Portal](#) with the release of results that contains directions on viewing score reports.

Assessment Administration Support and Training

The Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call will be held on **May 15 at 1:00 p.m.**

To join the webinar:

- go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/assessment-accountability/>; and
- enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name; or
- dial 1-646-307-1380 and enter participant PIN # 89147656.

High School Pathways

New: 2018-2019 Pupil Progression Plan

Please share with school system supervisors.

Pupil Progression Plans are the policies and guidelines local school systems use to determine whether students will be promoted to the next grade, retained in the current grade, or advanced (or skipped) to higher grades. Pupil Progression Plans also outline the criteria for high school graduation.

Each Local Education Agency (LEA) is required to develop a Pupil Progression Plan for review by the Department. Each agency may have slightly different procedures related to retention, advancement, promotion, and graduation.

As a result of the delayed release of the 2017-2018 Pupil Progression Plan template and related promotion policy updates, school systems may elect to:

- **Option 1:** Retain the locally approved 2017-2018 Pupil Progression Plan through the 2018-2019 school year; or
- **Option 2:** Submit an addendum outlining any plan updates for the 2018-2019 school year. Addendums shall be submitted no later than **August 31**.

The [2018-2019 Pupil Progression Election Form](#) is available on the Department's website. Notification of election must be submitted to ppp@la.gov no later than **June 30**.

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

Reminder: Career and Technical Education Data Submission

Please share with school system secondary supervisors, career and technical education supervisors/coordinators, school leadership, and professional school counselors.

The [Career and Technical Education \(C.A.T.E.\) Data System](#), will be open from May 15 to August 31 to submit 2017-2018 Career and Technical Education data as required for reporting of [Perkins Core Indicators](#) to the US Department of Education.

The Department will host two webinars to support school systems and schools with data entry.

The first webinar will provide new users with introduction to the system's processes, and will be offered at the following times:

- May 16 at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

To join the webinar:

- go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/newusers2018/>; and
- enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.

The second webinar will provide current users with updates to the system, and will be offered on the following dates.

- May 10 at 3:00 p.m.
- May 17 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

To join the webinar:

- go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/cate2018/>; and
- enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.

For further assistance, please contact martha.moore@la.gov.

Reminder: Financial Aid Planning Regional Events

Please share with professional school counselors and/or staff responsible for the implementation of financial aid planning policy in schools.

It is a requirement that every graduating senior complete the [FAFSA](#), [TOPS application](#), have a parental [waiver](#), or hardship [waiver](#) on file. Students not having met this requirement will not be considered graduates.

There are regional events scheduled throughout the state for seniors who still need to submit the FAFSA to meet graduation requirements. Additional individual school events are scheduled and can be viewed at the [Regional Financial Aid Calendar](#).

If you need assistance with a FAFSA event, the Department can come to your site. E-mail ldefinancialaid@la.gov to set up a date/time.

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

Educator Preparation

New: Searching for Next Year's Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year

The Department recognizes that great teachers and school leaders are critical to student success, and annually honors some of the state's most outstanding educators through the Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year programs.

Part of the selection process for naming the school system- and state-level winners each year includes recommendations from teachers, principals, school system employees, parents, colleagues, and community members.

If you or someone you know meets the criteria below, please submit a nomination for Louisiana's 2020 State Teacher and Principal of the Year. Self-nominations are also accepted.

- Demonstrates excellence in the field, guiding students of all backgrounds and abilities to achieve excellence.
- Demonstrates leadership and innovation in and outside of the classroom walls that embodies lifelong learning.
- Collaborates with colleagues, students, and families to create a school culture of respect and success.

Nominations must be submitted via the [nominations portal](#). The portal may also be accessed by visiting the [Department's website](#). Nominations will be sent to the local school systems for consideration as they select their top candidates.

For questions, contact excellenteducators@la.gov.

New: 2018-2019 Mentor Teacher Training Informational Webinar

The Department received over 1,200 nominations from school systems for both Mentor Teacher training and Content Leader training for 2018-2019. Thank you for submitting your nominations. The Department has notified school systems of their nominees' acceptance, as well as the nominees themselves.

To kick off 2018-2019 Mentor Teacher training, the Department will host an informational webinar for all nominees. The webinar will provide an overview of the training and prepare participants for the first day of training. Training will begin for Mentor Teachers at this year's [Teacher Leader Summit](#) or during the week of June 5. School system leaders are also welcome to join the webinar. No pre-registration is required.

Introduction to Mentor Teacher Webinar

Option 2

May 10 at 4:30 p.m.

To join the webinar:

- go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/ldeoeprofdev/>;
- enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name; or
- dial [1-855-240-2575](tel:1-855-240-2575) and enter participant PIN # 8914765.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Special Education

New: IDEA Alternate Assessment Monitoring Results Available

Under ESSA, alternate assessment participation is limited to no more than 1.0 percent of all students. States that exceeded the 1.0 percent cap, including Louisiana, submit a waiver to the US Department of Education, and monitor school systems where more than 1.0 percent of students participated in the alternate assessment. The Department has concluded IDEA alternate assessment monitoring for the 2016-2017 school year.

All monitored school systems now have a notice of closure (no findings) or a notice of action (findings) available on the FTP.

For additional information, please email iris.jones@la.gov.

New: AEPS to TS GOLD Transition Deadline and Supports

Please share with Special Education Directors, school administrators, and staff responsible for AEPS.

As of July 1, Teaching Strategies Gold (TS GOLD) will replace AEPS as the assessment tool used to measure the progress and growth of 3-5 year old children with disabilities. In order to ensure timely and accurate communication regarding the transition from AEPS to TS GOLD, all Special Education Directors should complete [this form](#) by **May 30**, using information for the 2018-2019 school year.

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

Data

New: 2018-2019 System Enhancements Q&A Webinar

Please share with data managers.

To engage in further discussion and to answer questions data managers and their vendors may have on the 2018-2019 System Enhancements, the Department will host a webinar on May 10 at 10:00 a.m. 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."

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

New: Department Data Systems Customer Satisfaction Survey

Please share with data managers.

An online Department [Data Systems Customer Satisfaction Survey](#) is available for LEA data coordinators involved in the submission of data to the Department's data systems (SIS, SPC, STS, CUR, PEP, SER, TSDL, SPS, Direct Match, Unique ID Assignment, and eScholar Customer Support). LEA personnel who contact the Department or eScholar staff for preparing, submitting, or correcting data are encouraged to participate in this brief survey. Please complete submissions by June 8.

If there are any questions, please email systemsupport@la.gov.

Reminder: 2017-2018 Teacher Roster Verification for VAM and TSG

The Curriculum Verification and Results (CVR) Reporting Portal roster verification process ensures that teachers are assigned to the correct courses and classroom rosters for the purposes of value-added (VAM) and transitional student growth data (TSGD) analyses.

In 2017-2018, VAM results will account for 35 percent of the Student Growth component of the teacher's final evaluation.

- Teachers in grades 4-8 in ELA, Math, and Social Studies will receive VAM results.
- Teachers in Algebra I, Geometry, and English I will receive TSG results in 2017-2018 because these assessments are in transition to new achievement levels. These TSG results are for information purposes only and will not count in the teacher's final evaluation.
- Teachers in other grades and subjects will not receive VAM or TSGD scores.

Now through May 18: The CVR portal will be open for roster verification. During this time, users can view and check the roster data for accuracy, and make changes in the system.

An updated user guide for CVR is available in the [Compass Library](#) with information on this process. Additionally, please email ldoecvr@la.gov with questions.

Policy

Reminder: 2018-2019 BESE Regulation Waiver Request Submission

The Department continues to streamline its process for receiving and reviewing BESE regulation waiver requests. BESE regulation waiver requests for the 2018-2019 school year should be submitted to the Department via the [BESE Regulation Waiver Request Form](#) no later than **May 31**. BESE will review all waiver requests received by the Department at its June meeting.

Please email ryan.n.gremillion@la.gov for more information.

Reminder: April BESE Meeting Summary

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met on April 18 and approved a number of bulletin revisions and recommendations. A summary of the approvals that directly impact the activities of local education agencies may be accessed [here](#).

Please email ryan.n.gremillion@la.gov for more information.

Grants Management

Reminder: eGMS SY2017-2018 8(g) Amendment Deadline

May 15 is the final date to submit SY2017-2018 amendments for 8(g) grants ending June 15. School systems are to make all final SY2017-2018 program budget changes to ensure that applications can be approved.

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

Reminder: FY2017-2018 High Cost Services Round 1 and Round 2 Funds Expire on June 30

School systems that have not submitted their FY2017-2018 High Cost Services Round 1 or Round 2 budget (Amendment 1) should submit them in [eGMS](#) as soon as possible.

The majority of the HCS Round 1 funding is from FY2017-2018 state funds (MFP). All of the HCS Round 2 funding is from FY2017-2018 state funds (MFP). These funds will expire on June 30. Any obligations on these funds must be made by that date.

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

Reminder: eGMS Application Releases

The following applications have been released and are available to school systems in eGMS. Please notify other staff as appropriate.

- 2018/2019 Central Data
- 2018/2019 ESSA Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Verification
- 2018/2019 IDEA MOE Verification

For assistance, please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov. For further information about MOE Verification, see MOE Fiscal Requirements below.

Safe and Healthy Schools

Reminder: Complete the Heroin and Opioid Prevention Education Survey

The Department is interested in learning about existing substance abuse and prevention programming in Louisiana school systems and schools and would appreciate input from the professional(s) with the most knowledge in substance abuse prevention within each school system. **Please have these individuals answer a brief [survey](#) no later than May 18; this may include wellness/health teachers, coordinators, or supervisors.**

Additionally, if an employee in your school system is interested in working with the Department to provide opioid-specific resources to schools across the state, please contact michael.comeaux@la.gov.

LDOE Contacts

John White
State Superintendent of Education
(toll-free) 877.453.2721
Twitter @LouisianaSupe

LDOE Links

[LDOE Website](#)
[Contact Us](#)

STAY CONNECTED

