

CHARTER SCHOOLS



October 10, 2018

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

My thanks again to all of you who have participated over the last year in commissions, task forces, and pilots related to the mission of redefining excellence in alternative schools and programs. We are at an important juncture in achieving that mission, and I wanted to share details as to where the process is headed next.

The first order of business has been assisting schools in building the capacity to address behavioral issues within the four walls of the home school. This year, as you know, schools around the state will be identified as requiring "urgent intervention" if they have notably high rates of out-of-school suspensions. Each of these schools will submit plans to the state that address the climate within schools and the quality of intervention strategies with students struggling with behavioral issues. Done well, this work will result in more students spending more time in school and fewer repeated behavioral challenges.

For those students requiring a setting outside of the home school, the Department has proposed to BESE new processes for approving alternative schools and programs and for evaluating alternative school performance. The new system of approval will gather information on practices of programs and schools required by the law. School systems will retain the ability to designate an alternative education site as either a program or a school. A new framework will then be in place to evaluate alternative schools. The new framework will be focused on whether the alternative school assisted students in getting back on track, and continuing to progress toward high school graduation. BESE will consider the framework at its meetings next week.

This push for a better way of intervening and evaluating started with recognizing a difficult and stark problem. In the wake of those early recognitions came tremendous creative energy from the many who have been involved in this process. What happens next has the potential to impact thousands of lives for the better.

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

John

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Action Items for Charter Schools

Date	Action	Owner(s)
10/19/18	Submit SIS MFP and SER IDEA data	Data coordinators
10/19/18	Complete Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) application	Nutrition coordinators
10/31/18	Register for Louisiana Schools Breakfast Challenge	Nutrition coordinators
10/23/18	Submit High Cost Services Round 1 applications in eGMS.	Grant coordinators and SPED coordinators
10/26/18	Submit information on legal services	CEOs and school leaders
10/26/18	Complete Robotics Education and Competition (REC) Equipment Grants applications	School leaders
10/31/18	Submit Education Excellence Fund (EEF) applications	Grant coordinators
11/2/18	Update rosters in CIS.	Data coordinator and Compass contact
11/2/18	Submit nominations for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program	School leaders and counselors
11/8/18	Register for November Supervisor Collaborations	CEOs and school leaders
11/9/18	Apply for BESE Tuition Program for Teachers	School leaders and teachers

LEA Support

New: October Superintendents Call

Superintendents are invited to participate in the **Superintendents' Conference Call hosted by Superintendent John White on October 18 at 10:30 a.m.** Please follow the instructions below:

- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/841562744> (Please enter your full name, and school system name when logging in).
- **Phone #:** 877-475-0109
- **Meeting ID#:** 1545218
- Please identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting.

New: Inquiry Hub High School Biology

High school biology teachers have the opportunity to receive training on and pilot high quality units by Inquiry Hub, an open source biology resource. Inquiry Hub released several units, which are linked in the [Biology Sample Scope and Sequence](#). The units are anchored in phenomena and aligned to Louisiana Student Standards for Science.

In order to support implementation, Inquiry Hub is hosting a two-day training on November 15-16 in Baton Rouge. [Registration is now open.](#)

Email stem@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: November Supervisor Collaborations

The November Supervisor Collaborations will focus on providing resources and training for the new School System Planning Process and the launch of the Super App. This is an all-day event for Supervisors only. The originally scheduled Principal Collaborations will be held in January. Attendees should include those who supervise academic content, assessment, high schools, CTE, workforce development, diverse student populations (including SPED), federal grant programs, and budgeting and finance.

The Collaborations will be offered on the following dates and locations from 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.:

- November 8: Bossier Parish School for Technology and Innovative Learning, Bossier City
- November 13: Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge
- November 14: Calcasieu Parish School Board Assessment Building, Lake Charles

- November 14: Calcasieu Parish School Board Assessment Building, Lake Charles
- November 15: Jefferson Parish School Board, Harvey

Registration will open in WisdomWhere on October 15. Supervisors do not need a code to register.

Please contact districtsupport@la.gov with questions regarding these events.

Reminder: Science Pilot and Professional Development Opportunities

The Department is helping educators transition to the [Louisiana Student Standards for Science](#) (LSSS) in the 2018-2019 school year by offering a series of pilots and professional development opportunities.

Great Minds: Grades 3-5

Great Minds is the first science curriculum to be rated Tier 1 in the Louisiana IMR process. While only grade 4 has been completed and reviewed, grades 3 and 5 units will be released throughout the school year. Great Minds is hosting one-day trainings for grade 3 through 5 educators in October. School systems can also review the [PD Vendor Guide](#) for additional professional development information. **Registration is now open for sessions in Kenner on October 18 and 19.**

OpenSciEd: Middle School

Middle School Science teachers have the opportunity to receive training on and pilot high quality units by OpenSciEd, a project that is building out a full middle school curriculum. Middle school educators can register for the pilot and four-day professional development using the links below. **Registration is now open.**

Date	Vendor	Location	Registration Information
October 13-14	Louisiana Tech	Ruston	Registration Link
October 12-13 and 26-27	LSU Cain Center	Baton Rouge	Registration Link
November 3-4 and 10-11	Louisiana Tech	Ruston	Registration Link

Please contact stem@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Updated School System Support Calendar

The [School System Support Calendar](#) has been updated to reflect the following changes highlighted in yellow in the calendar.

- October Assessment and Accountability Call moved to October 16
- Change of audience and locations for November and January Supervisor Collaborations
- Addition of the 2018-2019 Counselor Collaborations

Email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: K-2 Pilot Tools Office Hours

Please share with all SRCL grant and K-2 pilot tools coordinators.

The Department will host Office Hours on Thursday, October 11 for school systems engaged in the K-2 pilot tools initiative. Participants should join the call at 712-451-0695, code 568324#. A complete schedule of upcoming calls is [available](#).

Office hours are arranged by pilot tool as follows:

- CLASS (K): 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Writing Sample (1st): 12:00 p.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Curriculum Implementation (1stand 2nd): 12:30 p.m.-1:00 p.m.
- ELA/Mathematics Checkup (2nd): 1:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Contact iw.starns@la.gov with questions.

New: Reminders 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](#).
- DRC will only keep the following test results in eDIRECT based on the timeline below. For all administrations, notification will be posted at least 30 days in advance of the administration closure, so that DTCs can download any reports that are needed.
 - summative administration: keep for the two previous years
 - non-summative administration: keep current academic year after the administration
 - placement test: keep one full year after the administration
- Assessment windows for Program for International Assessment (PISA) and the International Early Learning Study (IELS) are listed below. These assessments are administered to selected schools by Westat.
 - PISA: October 8 - November 30
 - IELS: October 15 - December 7

K-3

- The KEA and K-3 data is submitted as part of the regular SIS Oct 1 MFP collection. The deadline for submission is October 19. Validation reports will be sent weekly to the school systems beginning October 10.

LEAP 2025

- School systems can now indicate the delivery mode, online or paper, in eDIRECT for grades 3 and 4 LEAP 2025 testing. In addition, school systems will verify or adjust the number of test booklets needed for the following conditions:
 - Grades 3 and 4 Regular Books (Paper Testers Only)
 - Grades 3 and 4 Accommodated Books (Paper Testers Only)
 - Grades 3 and 4 Large Print Books (Paper Testers Only)
 - Grades 3 and 4 Spanish Mathematics Books (Paper Tests Only)
 - Grades 3-8 Braille Kits
 - Grades 3-8 Communication Assistance Scripts
- Directions are [available](#) in eDIRECT. The window for selecting test delivery mode and verifying student counts will close on October 31.

ELPT and ELPS

- The 2018-2019 AIR Secure Browser is now available for download in the [EL Portal](#) under [Secure Browsers](#). Technology coordinators must have the new browser downloaded by January 1, 2019 on all devices being used for ELPT/ELPS.
- On October 15, the AIR Secure Browser and DEI will have a new look for login screens including: updated look and feel across all platforms, shorter login process, and key information highlighted to better prevent incorrect login attempts.

ACT and WorkKeys

- October 2 - 16: WorkKeys **initial** accommodated testing window
- October 3 - 11: Order WorkKeys accommodated materials for **makeup testing**
- October 18: Materials will be picked up at the district office via the pre-scheduled with FedEx
- The [2018-2019 ACT MOU](#) and related documents are in the [Assessment Library](#). The MOU and [ACT Estimated Number of Testers](#) form was due on September 30. Please mail the forms to the address on page 2 of the MOU.
- [The ACT and WorkKeys Updates for 2018-2019](#) contains the changes for ACT and WorkKeys testing for the current school year.
- All WorkKeys test records taken on both Department and non-Department realms are subject to review to ensure that the 30 day wait period is being followed.
 - [Bulletin 118](#), §7209. WorkKeys [Formerly LAC 28:CXI.2209]
 - Students shall be subject to a 30-day wait period before retesting on WorkKeys assessments, during which time LEAs shall provide remediation.
 - School systems must provide student results for all WorkKeys tests taken by every student every year, as outlined by DOE, to ensure all results are considered (**applies only to school systems/schools not signing the [ACT \(other realms\) Addendum](#)**).
 - The 30 day wait period refers to 30 calendar days. Testing on day 30 does not meet the policy requirement.
 - Testing within the official state testing window will be monitored and strictly enforced. Results from any test taken in violation of policy will not be used in accountability.
- **Every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.:** Register for [ACT WorkKeys Online Administration Training](#) offered weekly. The link lists all current available dates and times.
- **Every Thursday at 10:30 a.m.:** Register for [ACT WorkKeys Groups and Batch Load Training](#) offered weekly. The link lists all current available dates and times.

Reminder: Timeline for Fall School System and School Performance Score Release

Please share with principals.

The 2017-2018 school system and school-level performance scores will be released through the Louisiana School Finder on November 8. Below is a timeline of events that will take place before and after this release.

Action	Release Date
School system leaders prepare principals for SPS release	Early-mid October
Release of Communications Toolkit	October 16
Briefing calls with school system leaders	Week of October 28
Release of school and school system performance scores in School Finder	November 8
Release of secure portal for school system and school leaders	Winter

Email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Social Studies Test Reduction Pilot

After analyzing the past two years of assessment data and holding many conversations with stakeholders, the Department is shortening the LEAP 2025 grades 3 and 4 social studies summative assessments to reduce testing time by approximately twenty-five percent.

- The new design of the grades 3 and 4 social studies assessments reduces the number of sessions from three sessions to two by eliminating the task set and one of the item sets.
- The grades 5 to 8 social studies assessments will be shortened by removing an item set and the field-test portion of the tests. The grades 5 to 8 field tests will only be required for a sample of students, rather than all students statewide.

More specific test design information is detailed in the updated [social studies assessment guides](#), which will be available today and provided on the LEAP 2025 practice test webinars. Details below.

Although the 2018-2019 practice tests for social studies do not reflect the new social studies test designs, the [LEAP 2025 Social Studies Practice Test Guidance](#) will be updated to include recommendations on how to address the design changes, especially in grades 3 and 4.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: LEAP 2025 Practice Test Webinars

Please share with school leaders and teachers.

DTCs, STCs, and school system supervisors interested in learning general information about reference materials, and test set-up, administration, scoring, and reporting should join the following practice test webinar.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 16 at 9:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/645134288>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 669-900-6833
- **Meeting ID#:** 645134288

Teachers and instructional supervisors or coaches interested in learning general information about resources, and specific information about best uses and common misuses of the practice tests should the following practice test webinar.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 16 at 3:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/222125262>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 669-900-6833
- **Meeting ID#:** 222125262

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

High School Pathways

Reminder: Save-the-Date for the 2019 Jump Start Convention

Please share with school leaders, counselors, and teachers.

The 2019 Jump Start Convention will be held at the Raising Cane Convention Center on January 29, 2019. Registration will open in early November.

For more information, please e-mail jumpstart@la.gov.

Reminder: Robotics Education and Competition (REC) Equipment Grants

The Robotics Education and Competition (REC) Foundation provides resources needed to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers in Louisiana. In order to inspire Louisiana students to pursue STEM degrees and careers, they are offering [robotic equipment grants](#) to Louisiana schools in support of the Louisiana STEM (LaSTEM) Advisory Council.

Grant applications are due October 26. Details about the grant can be found in the [overview](#), or by contacting luis_medina@roboticseducation.org or calling 1-832-683-1674.

Educator Preparation

New: BESE Tuition Program for Teachers Spring 2019 Application Released

[Applications](#) for Spring 2019 funding through the BESE Tuition Program for Teachers will be available **this Friday, October 12**. This program provides tuition funding for selected classroom teachers to enroll in courses at regionally accredited colleges or universities in Louisiana.

The application deadline is November 9. Applicants will be notified in early December regarding acceptance. [Learn more about the program](#) or contact stem@la.gov with questions.

Special Education

Reminder: Second Adaptive Assessment Field Added in SER

Please share with SER data clerks and pupil appraisal personnel.

School systems must verify that any student who may take the alternate assessment meets the state's eligibility criteria for cognitive and/or adaptive functioning. School systems do this by entering cognitive and adaptive assessment results in SER. Based on feedback from school systems, the Department has added additional functionality that will allow school systems to add a second adaptive score. The new field is optional, and SER will not require the new field to validate IEPs that already have evaluation results entered. The Department will review this additional functionality during the special education leader webinar tomorrow, October 4.

Please email specialeducation@la.gov with any additional questions.

Reminder: ESSA Alternate Assessment Data Packages and Webinar

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), any school system with more than 1.0 percent of students participating in the ELA, mathematics, or science alternate assessment must take certain actions. The Department provided all school systems with an alternate assessment package on October 5 via FTP with the file name: LEA Code_LEA Name_Prelim Alternate Assessment 2018.

School systems should review their data, and take the actions outlined in the package if they exceed the 1.0 percent participation threshold. Please contact your school system's FTP coordinator to retrieve your alternate assessment package.

For more information, please email specialeducation@la.gov

Data

Reminder: MFP and IDEA Data Collections

The Student Information System (SIS) MFP collection and the Special Education Reporting (SER) IDEA collection are open for submitting student data. The reporting deadline is October 19. Please refer to the [2018-2019 Benchmark Calendar](#) for other important information regarding data submissions.

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Policy

Reminder: Request for Information on Legal Services

The Department has received a legislative request to obtain the following information from each LEA for the most recent fiscal year (FY2017-2018):

- Provide a listing of all legal services expenditures, including the amount paid, to whom payment was made, and for what purpose.
- Respond to the question, is the LEA's legal counsel a full-time or part-time employee of the school system?
- If the answer to that question is yes, provide the legal counsel's annual salary and benefits.

Please submit this information by October 26 to leslie.hill@la.gov.

Federal Programs

New: Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application Released

The FY 2018-2019 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) application is currently available in the electronic grants management system ([eGMS](#)). **The submission deadline is October 31.** New to the application this year are revised Education Improvement Codes (EIC) that bring budgeted items in closer alignment with state regulations.

For further information about the Education Excellence Fund (EEF) application submission, please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov.

Reminder: High Cost Services Round 1 Application Released

The FY 2018-2019 High Cost Services (HCS) Round 1 application is currently available in the electronic grants management system ([eGMS](#)). The submission deadline is October 23.

For further information about the High Cost Services (HCS) Round 1 application submission, please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov.

Safe and Healthy Schools

New: Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) for School Year 2018-2019

Applications for the 2018-2019 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) are now available for returning sponsors via the [Child Nutrition Program \(CNP\)](#) website. The deadline for submission of the FFVP online application is October 19.

For additional information, please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov.

New: Louisiana School Breakfast Challenge

All schools participating in the School Breakfast Program are invited to [register](#) for the 2018 Louisiana School Breakfast Challenge. Schools with the greatest increase in student breakfast participation (October 2017 vs. October 2018) will be eligible to win monetary incentives, Fuel Up to Play 60 Saints gear, or a pep rally with a New Orleans Saints celebrity. The entry deadline is October 31.

Please contact melissa.campbell@la.gov for additional information.

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