

# CHARTER SCHOOLS



October 31, 2018

## Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Too often the dialogue advocating more early childhood education is not matched by a conversation about the quality of what is provided.

To highlight quality services, later this week the Department will announce the list of early childhood education programs that have earned a spot on the state's "Honor Roll" as a result of high performance in the 2017-2018 school year. The announcement will precede the release of annual early childhood performance profiles and K-12 school report cards in the [Louisiana School and Center Finder](#).

The Honor Roll recognizes early childhood programs, including child care centers, Head Start programs, and pre-kindergartens, in three award categories:

- **Excellence:** Sites on this list achieved a rating of "Excellent," the highest possible rating, on the annual performance evaluation. The evaluation tool that informs the rating is used nationally and internationally, meaning the sites on this list are among the best in the world.
- **Birth to Three:** Sites on this list provided high quality instruction and care to the state's youngest learners. This is significant because Louisiana serves far fewer economically disadvantaged children ages birth through age three, and early childhood sites typically score lower in performance categories related to these age groups.
- **Top Gains:** Sites on this list significantly improved their performance from one year to the next.

The early childhood programs listed on the Honor Roll will receive a special badge on their performance profiles in the Louisiana School and Center Finder to signify the accomplishment, as well as a state certificate to display on-site.

Please join me later this week in celebrating the work of early childhood centers who set the bar for quality in our state and around the country.

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)
11/1/18	Intent to form 2019-20 <a href="#">Title III Consortium</a>	CEOs, school leaders and grants managers
11/2/18	Update rosters in CIS.	Data coordinator and Compass contact
11/2/18	Submit nominations for the <a href="#">U.S. Presidential Scholars Program</a>	School leaders and counselors
11/8/18	Register for November Supervisor Collaborations	CEOs and school leaders
11/9/18	Apply for <a href="#">BESE Tuition Program for Teachers</a>	School leaders and teachers
11/12/18	<a href="#">Register</a> for New Principals Workshop	CEOs and School leaders with 0-3 years experience
11/27/18	Submit K-3 literacy screening <a href="#">questionnaire</a>	School leaders
12/7/18	Submit data for Title I, Part D	School leaders and data managers
12/12/18	<a href="#">Register</a> for 2019 Louisiana Envirothon	School leaders and teachers

## LEA Support

### New: November School System Planning Call

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

- Curriculum and instruction supervisors
  - District test coordinators and accountability contacts
  - Early childhood supervisors
  - Federal Program supervisors
  - High school and career and technical supervisors
  - Personnel directors
  - Talent (Mentors, Content Leaders, Teacher Leaders) supervisors
- 
- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 7 at 1:00 p.m.
  - **Webinar Link:** <https://doe.zoom.us/>
  - **Meeting ID#:** 398875849
  - Please enter your full name, and school system name when logging in.

Email [districtsupport@la.gov](mailto:districtsupport@la.gov) with questions.

### New: November Supervisor Collaborations

The November Supervisor Collaborations will focus on providing resources and training for the new School System Planning Process for 2019-2020 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, ECE, diverse student populations (including SPED), federal grant programs, and budgeting and finance.

Date	Time	City	Address
November 8	8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	Bossier	<b>Bossier Parish School for Technology &amp; Innovative Learning</b> 1020 Innovation Drive Bossier City, LA 71111
November 13	8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	Baton Rouge	<b>Claiborne Building</b> 1201 North Third St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802

November 14	8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	Lake Charles	Daton Rouge, LA 70002 <b>Calcasieu Parish Assessment Building</b> 1618 Mill Street Lake Charles, LA 70601
November 15	7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Harvey	<b>Jefferson Parish School Board Building</b> 501 Manhattan Blvd. Harvey, LA 70058

[Registration](#) opened in WisdomWhere on October 15 and will close on November 2. All school systems need to send attendees to this very important Collaboration. Supervisors do not need a code to register.

Please contact [districtsupport@la.gov](mailto:districtsupport@la.gov) with questions regarding these events.

## **New: Louisiana Envirothon**

The Louisiana Envirothon is an environmental problem-solving competition for students in grades 6-12. Teams train and compete by demonstrating their knowledge of environmental science and natural resource management with the hope of going on to represent Louisiana at the North American Envirothon Competition. The competition focuses on five natural resource areas: soils and land use, aquatic resources, forestry, wildlife, and a current environmental issue. This year's competition will be held on April 13, 2019.

Teams also present a solution to an environmental problem related to the current issue through an oral presentation. **The 2019 current environmental issue is Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World.** Training information and study materials are already available online to incorporate into lesson plans for the upcoming school year. Additionally, training sessions are available upon request from partners and experts in the five resource areas.

**You are invited to participate by [spreading the word](#) and organizing a team of five students from the same school or associated with an organized group** (i.e. FFA, 4-H, science club, etc.). The team registration fee is \$50. Download the [registration packet](#) now! The registration deadline is **December 12, 2018**.

## **Reminder: Kindergarten CLASS Pilot Webinar**

The Department will host a webinar on November 1 on the new Kindergarten CLASS portal. The portal will allow administrators to set up observations and enter scores more efficiently. All school systems and schools participating in the KindergartenCLASS pilot should make plans to attend the webinar.

- **Meeting Date and Time:** November 1 at 3:15 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/169135272>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 408-638-0968
- **Meeting ID#:**169135272

Please contact [ivy.stams@la.gov](mailto:ivy.stams@la.gov) with questions.

## **Reminder: Request for Nominations for the 2019 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program**

The nomination process for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program is now open. Each state can nominate up to 25 students for one of the following categories:

- General: outstanding academic performance on the ACT or SAT
- Career and Technical Education (CTE): outstanding performance in CTE (new this year)

The Department invites school systems to submit nominations for up to three outstanding students. The nominations must include a male and female student for the general category, and at least one nomination should be for a student who has been successful in career and technical education. Students must be high school seniors scheduled to graduate or receive a diploma between January-June of 2019. Additional program requirements are available on the U.S. Department of Education's [website](#).

**Nominations should be submitted** through a single nomination letter for all nominees (not to exceed three pages total), signed by the local superintendent or charter school leader, and emailed to [leslie.hill@la.gov](mailto:leslie.hill@la.gov) **no later than November 2 at 4:30 p.m.** with "Presidential Scholars" in the subject line. In the letter, please include the following information for each nominee: the student's name, home mailing address, gender, and email address; and high school name, mailing address, and (College Entrance Examination Board) CEEB code.

Please contact [leslie.hill@la.gov](mailto:leslie.hill@la.gov) with questions.

## **Family Engagement**

### **New: School and Center Performance Score Communications Toolkit for Families**

## New: School and Center Performance Score Communications Toolkit for Families

### **Please share with principals.**

A [communications toolkit](#) is now available to help school systems, schools, and early childhood centers communicate the release of their 2018 performance scores in the [Louisiana School Finder](#). The toolkit includes resources such as:

- School Finder flyer, poster, website button, and social media graphics
- Sample early childhood and K-12 news releases
- Animated videos to help explain early childhood performance profiles
- Early childhood and K-12 customizable parent night presentations

All resources are available in the [principal support library](#), and all videos are available on the Department's [YouTube channel](#) in the "School Finder" playlist.

Email [doecommunications@la.gov](mailto:doecommunications@la.gov) with questions.

## Assessment and Accountability

### **New: Timeline for Release of 2017-2018 School and Center Performance Scores**

#### **Please share with principals.**

The 2017-2018 school and center performance scores will be released on November 8 in the [Louisiana School Finder](#). Below is a timeline for when school systems will receive data and resources related to this release:

- **October 28-30:** School system leaders received individual, unsuppressed school system and school-level performance scores.
- **October 29-31:** School system leaders participate in briefing calls with the Department on their results.
- **By Friday, November 2:** Principals receive an email with tools and resources to help prepare them for the release.
- **November 7:** School system leaders:
  - participate in briefing call with Superintendent John White on statewide results at 1:00 p.m.; and
  - receive statewide, school-system, and school-level suppressed results that evening.
- **November 8:** Superintendent White holds media briefing on statewide results and results made public in [School Finder](#) and the [website](#) that afternoon.

Please view the [communications toolkit](#) for helpful tools in communicating these results to families.

Email [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

### **New: K-3 Literacy Screening (Request for More Information)**

Louisiana public schools must administer a [literacy screener](#) to students in grades K-3 within the first 30 days of school to identify the number of students who read below, at, or above grade level and report these results to the Department by mid-October each school year. Act 688, recently passed, adds that students who score above grade level on the screener shall be considered for gifted evaluation and that the school system shall report the number of children who were referred for gifted evaluation as a result of their screening results.

Please complete this brief [questionnaire](#) by November 27 to provide the Department with information on the number of students in grades 1 through 3 who were referred for gifted evaluation as a result of their literacy screening results.

Please contact [ivy.stams@la.gov](mailto:ivy.stams@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](#).
- Selected schools are participating in IELS and PISA assessments.
  - PISA assessment window: October 8 - November 30
  - IELS assessment window: October 15 - December 7

#### **LEAP 360**

- The new Interactive Reporting tool is now available for teacher use to view student item responses and data in [eDIRECT](#). To

- gain access to the tool, DRC IRS permissions must be assigned to school system, school, and teacher/test administrator users through the User Management tab in [eDIRECT](#).
- Students removed from a school in eDIRECT for non-summative assessments will show up on the student transfer report. School systems and schools should use this report to identify a student that has been incorrectly identified and moved by another school or school system. The student transfer report will be available weekly in the View Report tab in [eDIRECT](#).
- Student access is available for all grades for Interim Form 1, high school Forms 2-3, and grades 6-8 mathematics Form 2.
  - Teacher access is available now through the [Interim Quick Start Guide](#).
  - Communication Assistance Scripts are posted in [eDIRECT](#) under General Information, Documents, Diagnostic/Interim 18-19, and then Communication Assistance Scripts.
  - Teacher Study Guides are posted in [eDIRECT](#) under General Information, Documents, Diagnostic/Interim 18-19, and then Teacher Study Guides.
  - Additional materials orders for braille test kits can be placed in [eDIRECT](#) under Materials and then Additional Materials.
  - Response map reports will be available within 24 hours of test completion. Summary reports will be available within 24 hours of educator scoring. District Data Files will refresh every 24 hours to update test completing and educator scoring.

## LEAP 2025

- Fall high school LEAP 2025/EOC testing schedules must be submitted to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) by November 7.
- Fall high school LEAP 2025/EOC manuals are posted in [eDIRECT](#).
- Fall high school test setup opened Monday, October 29 in [eDIRECT](#). STCs can create test sessions and Test Administrator numbers in eDIRECT in preparation for fall high school LEAP 2025 and print student test tickets using the [eDIRECT User Guide](#).
- DTCs should deliver test security and LEAP 2025 administration training to School Test Coordinators (STCs) and other applicable school and school system personnel for fall high school LEAP 2025. Resources can be found in the [Assessment Library](#).
- By today, October 31:** School systems indicate the delivery mode, online or paper, in eDIRECT for grades 3 and 4 LEAP 2025 testing and verify or adjust the number of test booklets needed. Directions are [available](#) in eDIRECT.
- Social Studies Test Reduction Webinar
  - Social studies teachers and instructional supervisors/coaches should join the Social Studies Test Reduction Webinar to learn about how the reduction affects instruction and test administration.
    - Webinar Date and Time:** November 1 at 3:30 p.m.
    - Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/391641404>
    - Webinar Phone Number:** 669-900-6833
    - Meeting ID#:** 391641404

## ACT and WorkKeys

- ACT provides [practice test material](#) for student to prepare for the WorkKeys assessments.
- Nov. 3- Deadline to pull 2017-2018 district profile reports from [PearsonAccessnext](#) (PANext)
- Nov. 5- [PANext](#) will open for managing participation for spring testing. No students will be in the system until later in November. School must indicate participation in Spring ACT testing and choose material delivery dates. Please be mindful of school system holidays when choosing dates.
- Nov. 6- ACT Accommodation Q & A at 11:00 a.m. [Registration](#) is required.
- Do not administer the WorkKeys assessments to teachers as a way of preparing the students for this assessment. This is a violation of test security policy found in [Bulletin 118 §5311](#).

## Assessment Administration Support and Training

- There will not be Assessment and Accountability Office Hours on November 6. The next Office Hours will be November 13.
  - Webinar Date and Time:** November 13 at 1:00 p.m.
  - Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/>
  - Webinar Phone Number:** 669-900-6833
  - Meeting ID#:** 393463942

Due to Election Day and the Supervisors Collaboration events, the Monthly Assessment and Accountability Call has been moved to November 27.

The [Office Hours Questions and Answers](#) document is posted in the [Assessment Library](#).

## Reminder: Reporting Student Performance in School Finder

Please share with principals.

As part of the release of the 2018 school performance scores, the Department will report letter grade equivalents for student performance and progress in [School Finder](#). Based on feedback from school system leaders, high school report cards will include

a letter grade equivalent for each of the five key student performance indices: Student Progress, State Assessments, ACT, Graduation Rate, and Strength of Diploma. Elementary/middle school report cards will include a letter grade equivalent for Student Progress and State Assessments.

The following resources reflect this change and should be shared with principals.

- [2018 School Performance Scores for Principals](#)
- [2018-2019 Policy Updates and School Report Card Review](#)

By November 5, the Department will also release a series of videos explaining the updates to School Finder. All resources are and will be available in the [Principal Support Toolbox library](#) under the "School Finder Toolkit" section.

Email [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

## High School Pathways

### **New: 2019 Behavioral Intervention Summit**

**Please share with school system administrators, school principals, counselors, and behavioral interventionists.**

The 2019 Behavioral Intervention Summit will be held January 30, 2019 at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge. This summit will provide professional development on evidence based behavioral interventions, implementation of a Multi-Tier System of support, new behavioral intervention resources from the Department, and the new Alternative Education model and authorization process.

Registration will occur in early November. For more information, email [katie.barras@la.gov](mailto:katie.barras@la.gov).

### **Reminder: CTE Leadership Academy Regional Meeting**

**Please share with CTE leaders and industry partners.**

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Leadership Academy will be holding the first virtual regional meeting via a webinar at 4:00 p.m. on November 7. The purpose of Academy regional meetings is to help current and prospective CTE leaders form a community of practice with other CTE leaders and our industry allies.

The meeting will feature guest speakers Ashley Aleman of Nepris, and Laura Smith of Louisiana Council for Economic Education, who will share information on how schools can help students engage with workplace experts, and innovative best practices implemented by members of the CTE Leadership Academy.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 7 at 4:00 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/855549452>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID:** 855549452

For more information, please contact [dave.lefkowith@la.gov](mailto:dave.lefkowith@la.gov).

## Educator Preparation

### **New: Workshop for New Principals**

**Please share with new (0-3 years of experience) principals.**

The Louisiana Association of Principals, in partnership with the Department, will offer their New Principals Workshop on December 4 at the Circle J. Picard Center in Lafayette. Download the [available flyer](#) for more details about the event. The [registration](#) deadline is November 12 and space is limited to the first 100 participants to sign up.

Please contact [debra.schum@laprincipals.org](mailto:debra.schum@laprincipals.org) with questions.

## **New: 2018-2019 Fall Compass Timeline**

For the 2018-2019 Compass Information System (CIS) process, please note the following timeline for the fall.

Date	Action Item
November 2	* All school rosters are up to date in CIS.
December 3	* Student Learning Targets (SLTs) are reviewed and accepted.
December 21	* 2017-2018 leader scores are entered into CIS. * Any alternative rubric waivers have been submitted to <a href="mailto:compass@la.gov">compass@la.gov</a> .

For more information, please review the [2018-2019 CIS Timeline](#) located in the [Compass Library](#) in Louisiana Believes.

Please email [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov) with questions.

## **New: Data Validation for 2018-2019 Educator Workforce Reporting**

In preparation for the 2018-2019 educator workforce reporting in the [secure portal](#), as well as the 2017-2018 teacher attendance data reported in the [Louisiana School Finder](#), school systems will undergo a data validation process to review and validate teacher tenure status, teacher certification status, and teacher attendance data.

To support school systems during the data validation period in November, the Department will provide school systems with the following via their FTP:

- A teacher level file with tenure status, compass results, and employment information for 2018-2019 educators ([secure portal](#)).
- A preliminary appendix that shows classes taught by teachers and their certification status (appropriately certified, out-of-field, or uncertified) for 2018-2019 educators ([secure portal](#)).
- A preliminary attendance file with school and school system level attendance rates and attendance by categories of days missed for 2017-2018 educators ([secure portal](#) and [school finder](#)). Teacher attendance will be updated in Louisiana School Finder in spring 2019.

School systems should access and review these files closely to ensure information is entered correctly so that workforce data is reported accurately in the Secure Portal and School Finder.

For more information, please email [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov).

## **Special Education**

### **New: Rescheduled Special Education Leader Monthly Webinar**

The Department is rescheduling its **monthly webinar for school system directors, supervisors, and coordinators of special education from November 1 to November 16 at 2:00 p.m.** Webinar details will be provided in next week's newsletter.

For more information, please email [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov).

## **Policy**

### **Reminder: October BESE Meeting Summary**

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met on October 17 and approved a number of bulletin revisions and recommendations. A [summary](#) of the approvals that directly impact the activities of school systems is now available.

Please email [ryan.n.gremillion@la.gov](mailto:ryan.n.gremillion@la.gov) for more information.

## **Federal Programs**

## **Reminder: Intent to Form 2019-2020 Title III Consortium**

Under Section 3114(b) of the ESEA, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, a state educational agency shall not award a Title III subgrant to a school system if the amount is less than \$10,000. However, school systems that do not meet the \$10,000 threshold may form a consortium to qualify for these funds. School systems must designate a member of the group to serve as the fiscal agent. Please reference the [2019-2020 Title III Consortium Guidelines](#) for additional information.

Any school system that wishes to either join an existing consortium or form a new one, please email [melanie.mayeux@la.gov](mailto:melanie.mayeux@la.gov) no later than November 1. Please include the names of all consortium members and the school system that will service as fiscal agent.

### LDOE Contacts

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

### LDOE Links

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