

CHARTER SCHOOLS



December 20, 2017

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Because of the holidays, there will not be a newsletter produced for the next two weeks. We look forward to resuming newsletters during the week of January 8.

The year 2018 will surely be a lively one and an important one for schools in our state. For the first time, [mentor teachers](#), [content leaders](#), and [resident teachers](#) will be fully certified in their new and unique roles. Schools statewide will begin to introduce new science curricula to match newly developed [standards](#). All graduates will complete [financial aid forms](#) to fund workforce training or a college education. And hundreds of schools will develop and implement, with partner organizations, [plans](#) for comprehensive improvement.

There remain daunting challenges. Early childhood centers must focus on developing children's' cognitive skills by modeling language and asking questions. Elementary schools must develop early screening systems for identifying and addressing each student's needs. High schools must do away with industry credentials that mean little to employers, instead offering all students courses valued by industry and higher education.

The new year, as always, holds the promise of change. It reminds us of the most essential premise of education: that growth is always possible, every day and in every child.

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)

12/22/17	Submit Foster Care Transportation Plans	School leaders
12/31/17	Enter Compass data	School leaders
1/10/18	Apply for High Cost Services Grant	School leaders and SPED coordinators
1/12/18	Register for Jump Start Convention	CEOs and School leaders
1/12/17	Apply for Vex Robotic Grant	STEM or science supervisors, teachers, and K-12 school counselors.
1/17/18	Submit Principal & Teacher of the Year applications	CEOs and School leaders
1/31/18	Submit applications for Louisiana Team Nutrition Training Grant	School leaders
2/1/18	Submit Pupil Progression Plans	CEOs and School Leaders
3/1/18	Submit School Redesign Applications	CEOs and School Leaders

LEA Support

New: January/February Supervisor and Principal Collaborations

Sessions at the January/February Supervisor and Principal Collaborations will focus on topics relevant to school system leaders including but not limited to, accountability, school system planning, content area instruction, assessment, early childhood, and data systems.

Registration opens on Wednesday, January 3 in [Wisdomwhere](#) and the overview documents will be [posted](#) on Friday, December 22.

Date	Location	
Tuesday, January 30	Claiborne Building 1201 N.3rd St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802	Baton Rouge
Thursday, February 1	Jefferson Parish Public School Board 501 Manhattan Blvd. Harvey, LA 70058	Harvey
Wednesday, February 7	Bayou Church 2234 Kaliste Saloom Rd. Lafayette, LA 70508	Lafayette
Thursday, February 8	Trinity Methodist Church 1000 Woodward Ave. Ruston, LA 71270	Ruston
Supervisor Collaborations 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Principal Collaborations 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.		

Please contact LouisianaTeacherLeaders@la.gov with questions related to this event.

New: January School System Planning Call

The January School System Planning Call will take place on January 10, 2018, from 1:00 until 2:00 p.m. The following school system supervisors should participate:

- Early childhood supervisors
- District test coordinators
- Accountability contacts
- Data coordinators
- Curriculum supervisors
- Teacher Leader and mentor teacher supervisors
- High school and career and technical supervisors
- Special education and English learner supervisors

Webinar login information

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

Reminder: Updated School System Support Calendar Released

The Department has released an [updated version of the school system support calendar](#). All updates have been highlighted in yellow and include:

- Update to the date of the 2018 Teacher Leader Summit

- Addition of Special Education Supervisor webinars January-May
- Addition of Individual Graduation Plan webinars in January
- February Counselor Collaborations
- Updates to release of Teacher Leader newsletters

Email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

New: English Learner Support

Please share with English learner teachers and supervisors.

The following professional learning opportunities were held, or will be held, to support the implementation of the Connectors for English learners (ELs) and build knowledge of the new English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT).

Training	Dates	Targeted Audience
Dec. 14 ELPT Test Webinar: Provided an overview and updates on the ELPT assessment and portal .	Posted in the Department's Webinar Library	English Language Development teachers, District Test Coordinators and School-based Test Administrators
Implementing Connectors for ELs with ELA Guidebook Lessons: Will provide a deep dive on appropriate linguistic scaffolding	This training will take place January 18-19 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the Thomas Jefferson room of the Claiborne Building. Registration is currently open in WisdomWhere .	EL coaches, Master Teachers, Instructional Specialists, and Content Leaders

Please email classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

New: U.S. History Sample Scope and Sequence Updated

The U.S. History Sample Scope and Sequence document has been updated. This updated document provides instructional tasks which build content knowledge and skill with sources, a coherent year-long frame which makes connections among content ideas, and assessments which measure how well students express informed opinions with evidence and outside knowledge.

- US History Sample Scope and Sequence Updated -[Word](#)
- US History Sample Scope and Sequence Updated -[PDF](#)

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with any questions.

Reminder: Compass Deadlines

Please note that December 31, 2017, is the deadline for the following important Compass tasks:

- entering principal evaluations
- entering social studies teacher evaluations
- updating 2017-18 rosters

To enter 2016-17 Compass data, please follow the instructions in the [Quick Guide](#). Please contact compass@la.gov for more information.

Reminder: Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy (SRCL) Grant Update

The SRCL grant is designed to advance the literacy skills of disadvantaged youth by providing funding to school systems with strong plans to address three core components of the state's larger reform effort: Standards and Curriculum, Professional Development, and Assessment.

Applications were due November 10. The Department received 144 applications:

- 55 applications for Birth to Grade 5
- 52 applications for Grades 6-8
- 37 applications for Grades 9-12

To ensure a thorough review of the large number of applications received, the announcement of awards is now scheduled for the January BESE meeting.

Email jill.slack@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

LEAP 2025 Practice Tests

- Social studies, ELA, and math practice tests for grades 3-8 are now available for student use in INSIGHT.

LEAP 360

- Summary reports Interim 1 summary reports and csv files are posted in eDIRECT.

English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT)

- The Department held a webinar for EL teachers and specialists on the English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) last week. The presentation and recording are located in the [Assessment Guidance](#) library.

LEAP Connect

- The webinar for special education teachers and specialists on the LEAP Connect is posted in the [Assessment Library](#) and [Assessment Guidance](#) library.

Assessment Administration Support and Training

- Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call
 - There are no calls scheduled December 26 or January 2. Calls will resume on January 9, 2018.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Superintendent and Principal Profile Release

The new principal and superintendent profiles were released at www.louisianaschools.info on Thursday, December 14. This secure website replaces the previous principal and superintendent profiles with an interactive data exploration tool that provides principals and superintendents with access to important information across content areas (early childhood and K-12 accountability, college-going, and workforce reports). Simulated 2016-2017 accountability results under the new 2018 accountability formula will be available in the secure reporting system.

Superintendents and principals are able to log into the secure reporting system using their CVR system credentials. Please view the [login quick access guide](#) or contact your school system CVR data manager for assistance.

Note: Due to an authorization issue, some users are currently receiving this error message after entering credentials: "The sign-in system is experiencing a temporary outage. Please try again later." The Department is working with IT to resolve this issue by end of the week. Network leaders will alert school systems when the issue is resolved. For any other access issues, please email systemsupport@la.gov.

The Department held webinars on December 15 and 18 to walk superintendents and principals through the profile system. A [recording](#) of the webinar can be found in the [Accountability Library](#).

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Urgent Intervention Required for Discipline Update

In response to feedback from the field and in keeping with [national suspension rates](#), the Department has issued revised definitions for identifying schools as Urgent Intervention Required for discipline:

- **Elementary schools (grades PK-4):** reported an out-of-school suspension rate above 5.2% for three consecutive years (2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017)
- **Middle and high schools (grades 5-12):** reported an out-of-school suspension rate above 20.2% for three consecutive years (2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017)
- **Elementary/middle schools and combination schools (grades PK-12):** reported an out-of-school suspension rate for grades PK-4 above 5.2% for three consecutive years (2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017) and/or reported an out-of-school suspension rate for grades 5-12 above 20.2% for three consecutive years (2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017)

The [2018-2019 School System Planning Guide](#) has been updated to reflect this change, and updated intervention labels will be provided in the [principal and superintendent reporting system](#) in December. Annual out-of-school suspension rates by school and school system can be found in the [Safe and Healthy School Data Center](#).

Reminder: Updated Release of Updated Growth Target Rosters for Schools

Last summer, the Department released growth target rosters for all students who participated in state assessments. The growth target rosters were updated to assign students to sites based on 2017-2018 enrollment, and were placed on secure FTP Friday, December 15, 2017. File names are below:

- For K8 schools: *LEA Code_K8 Growth to Mastery Student Rosters*
- For high schools: *LEA Code_High School Growth to Mastery Student Rosters*

Email assessment@al.gov with questions.

Student Opportunities

New: 2017-2018 Individual Graduation Plan and Diploma Pathway Webinar

Please share with school counselors.

The Department is hosting a webinar to support professional school counselors with the Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) and diploma pathway selection process. Participants will review the Guidance for Individual Graduation Plans and Diploma Pathway Selection document that was developed to assist middle and high school counselors in the annual development and review of the IGP. The webinar will be offered twice:

- January 11, 2018, from 3:00 until 3:30 p.m.
- January 17, 2018, from 3:00 until 3:30 p.m.

To join the webinar:

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/igp2018>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name

Please email leslie.gilliland@la.gov for assistance.

New: VEX Robotics Grant Opportunity

Please share with STEM or science supervisors, teachers, and K-12 professional school counselors.

The Robotics Education and Competition (REC) Foundation will provide ten school system grants for the state of Louisiana in support of the [Louisiana Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Advisory Council \(LaSTEM\) initiative](#). The VEX IQ Challenge grants are for elementary and middle school grades 3-8 and the VRC Grants are for middle and high school grades 7-12.

Learn more about the [grant opportunity](#) and [apply](#) by **Friday, January 12, 2018**. Contact lastem@regents.la.gov with questions.

Special Education

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, January 11, at 2:00 p.m. Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, guidance, and training opportunities.

To join the Special Education Policy Monthly Webinar (no pre-registration required):

- Go to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/spedjan/>.
- Dial: 1-855-240-2575.
- Enter participant code: 30160130. For more information, please email specialeducation@la.gov.

New: High Cost Services Grant Updates

The 2017-2018 High Cost Services grant opened on December 12 for Round 2 applications, and will close on January 10. Round 2 applications are for students who are new to your school system this year and more information can be found in Louisiana's [state plan](#).

If you have questions about the application, please email ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov.

Data

New: October 2017 Data File of Economically Disadvantaged Students

The October 2017 data file of economically disadvantaged students for each school system was released today. The single Excel file,

LEACode_LEAName_Oct 2017 Economically Disadvantaged, will be available through February 16, 2018, on the data management FTP site.

FTP coordinators should locate their individual system file and share it with their federal program and finance staff. The data include students eligible for SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, reduced price lunch and those who are limited English proficient (LEP), homeless, migrant, foster care, or incarcerated. These data will be used by the Department to inform grants, federal funding, and subgroup determinations.

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Federal Programs

Reminder: Foster Care Transportation Plans Due

ESSA regulations require that all school systems receiving Title I funds must collaborate with a state or local child welfare agency to develop and implement clear written procedures governing transportation of foster care children (ESEA section 1112(c)(5)(B)). The written procedures should explain when transportation is in the child's best interest and describe how it will be provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of the child's time in foster care. The completed plan should be signed by applicable school system and child welfare agency staff.

Guidance documents, templates, and Department of Children and Family Services contact information can be found in the [School Policy library](#). **Finalized plans are due on or before December 22, and should be emailed to melanie.mayeux@la.gov.**

Contact melanie.mayeux@la.gov with questions or for further guidance.

Statewide Monitoring

New: Consolidated Monitoring Schedule for SY 2017-2018

The Department conducts annual monitoring of school systems to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements. To assist

The Department conducts annual monitoring of school systems to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements. To assist school systems in thoughtful planning and preparation for a scheduled monitoring event, the Department is releasing the [consolidated monitoring schedule for the 2017-2018 school year](#). The schedule is tentative and the agency reserves the right to make adjustments as necessary.

Quarterly updates will follow this newsletter announcement. Additionally, the assigned Statewide Monitoring Team Leader will send a more detailed monitoring notification reminder, along with any necessary planning documents or instructions, directly to Superintendents and Federal Program Directors of each school system appearing on the monitoring schedule. The [second quarter monitoring schedule](#) is also available.

If you have any questions about the monitoring schedule or program monitoring related to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), please contact tasha.anthony@la.gov or chauncey.mcelwee@la.gov for monitoring related to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Policy

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The Department will hold its **monthly webinar for school system directors, supervisors, and coordinators of special education on Thursday, January 11, at 2:00 p.m.**

Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, guidance, and training opportunities.

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- Dial: 1-855-240-2575.
- Enter participant code: 30160130.

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

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