

CHARTER SCHOOLS



February 7, 2018

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

This week we celebrate [National School Counseling Week](#), sponsored by the [American School Counselor Association](#). It's a time to highlight the work of professional school counselors and to provide them with an opportunity to broaden awareness of their important efforts. I hope that you and your school system will find a way to elevate their work this week.

To kick off the week, Michelle Obama delivered the keynote speech at the [National School Counselor of the Year ceremony](#) on Friday. Her speech touched on personal support and guidance for students, career planning, and the necessity of effective counseling for improved graduation rates. The Louisiana state counselor of the year, Tara Washington of Woodlawn Middle School in East Baton Rouge Parish, represented our state at the ceremony.

Professional school counselors in Louisiana have shouldered much of the weight of key initiatives. The implementation of [Jump Start](#) required school counselors to develop new knowledge of career pathways and to engage students in in-depth discussions planning for pathways to college and work. A new requirement that students choose whether to apply for [financial aid](#) has necessitated that counselors assist parents and students alike in readying themselves for this important step. The results of their efforts have been profound. While Louisiana students earned 14,000 industry-based credentials in 2014, they earned 63,000 in 2017. And the share of Louisiana seniors completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, went up 27 percent last year. These remarkable accomplishments would likely never have happened were counselors not deeply knowledgeable about opportunities for students and dedicated to assisting students at every phase of their educational paths.

As you know, this is just a fraction of all that professional school counselors do for our schools and students. Please make sure to honor their extraordinary contributions this week.

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) |
|---------|---|--|
| 2/9/18 | Provide feedback for High Cost Services Grant | SPED coordinators |
| 2/9/18 | Complete Health, Physical Education and Vending Survey | CEOs |
| 2/16/18 | Submit Principal & Teacher of the Year applications | CEOs and School leaders |
| 2/28/18 | Submit Jumpstart Request for Applications | School Leaders and Counselors |
| 3/1/18 | Submit School Redesign Applications | CEOs and School Leaders |
| 3/12/18 | Apply for New Student-Centered Funding Pilot Program | |
| 3/16/18 | Submit initial transportation plan to Charters@la.gov | CEOs and School Leaders of Type 2 charters |

LEA Support

New: February Superintendents' Call

Superintendents are invited to participate in the Superintendents' Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White on February 20, at 10:30 a.m. You can begin dialing into the call 15 minutes in advance. Please follow the instructions below:

To join the Superintendents' February 20, 2018 Meeting:

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/suptscall/>
- Dial into the Phone Bridge: 877-475-0109
- When prompted, please give the Meeting ID #8467938
- You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting.

New: Date Change for March Supervisor Collaborations

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Supervisor Collaboration originally scheduled on March 15 in Jefferson, will now be held on March 23 in Baton Rouge at the Claiborne Building. This change is reflected in the [School System Support Calendar](#).

Email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: EAGLE Sets for Social Studies Released

The Department released thirteen new item sets for social studies in EAGLE. EAGLE 2.0 is an online assessment tool that supports formative assessment in the classroom and can be used to enhance student learning throughout the year. To access the new item sets listed below, log on to [eDirect](#) and then filter the item bank by grade and subject.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with any questions.

Reminder: Rescheduling EL Support Trainings

Please share with EL supervisors and teachers.

The EL Support/ELA Guidebook 2.0 trainings have been rescheduled for February 26-27, at the East Baton Rouge Professional Development Center, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Additional seating is available for these trainings, and registration is available in [WisdomWhere](#). Previously registered participants do not need to re-register.

Contact beverly.diaz@la.gov with any 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: Grade, Subject, and Subgroup Indices Available in Principal and Superintendent Secure Reporting Portal

The Principal and Superintendent Secure Reporting Portal has been updated to include grade, subject, and subgroup indices simulated under the new accountability formula based on 2016-2017 results. This information can be found by clicking "View Details" under the relevant data section, or by exporting the data file.

Additionally, a statewide summary of average 2016-2017 index scores by school letter grade simulated under the new accountability formula is now available under the "Accountability Results Summary" section by clicking on the last question.

As a reminder, the following resources are available to support superintendents and principals in accessing and navigating the secure portal:

- [Webinar recording](#)
- [Login quick reference guide](#)
- [User guide](#)

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

New: Reminders for District Testing Coordinators

LEAP 2025

- Test Administrator and Coordinator Manuals for LEAP 2025 are posted in eDIRECT.

LEAP 360

- LEAP 360 Grades 3-8 Interim Assessment Form 2 for math is currently available for testing.
- Grades 3-8 Interim Assessment Form 2 for ELA will be available by mid-February. The Grades 3-8 ELA Interim Assessment 2 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, select Answer Keys/Scoring.
- January/February Principal and Supervisor Collaborations will include a LEAP 360: Making Connections session. The participants in this session will explore LEAP 360 Diagnostic and Interim assessments. This session will highlight ways that LEAP 360 can be used to encourage conversation and inform instruction and assessment.

English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT)

- The ELPT assessment window is February 5 - March 16.
- Districts received ELPT materials January 23. The additional material window is now open. Additional material orders are placed through [TIDE](#).
- DTCs may access Security Checklists through [TIDE](#). Go to Paper Ordering, choose Order History, choose the "+" next to the name of the school, click Reports, and open the file labeled "Online_SecurityChecklist."
- The ELPT [Data Entry Interface Guide](#) (DEI) is posted in the [ELPT portal](#). The DEI is a component of the Online Testing System that allows authorized users to enter student assessment data, such as item responses and scores. Entering student data is required for the ELPT large print and Braille forms.

- Louisiana and AIR are now supporting Mac OS X 10.13 for ELPT testing. A Secure Browser for use with Mac computers running OS X 10.13 is now available for download on the [Secure Browser](#) page of the portal.

LEAP Connect/LAA1

- The LEAP Connect and LAA1 assessment window is February 5 - March 16.
- The additional materials window opened January 29. Additional material orders are placed through [eDIRECT](#).
- The LEAP Connect Procedures for Assessing Students Who Are Blind, Deaf, or Deaf-Blind guide is posted in [eDIRECT](#). The directions for grades 3-4 Foundation Reading sections will be securely shipped to LEAs.
- The LEAP Connect TA Quiz is posted in [eDIRECT](#). DTCs and STCs should use this as a part of test administration training.
- LEAP Connect/LAA1 Security Checklists are posted in [eDIRECT](#). Go to Report Delivery, choose View Reports, and choose the LEAP Connect/LAA1 Spring 2018 administration.
- TAs should review the LEAP Connect DTA up to two days prior to the test to ensure they are prepared to administer the assessment.

ACT

- DTCs are required to make changes to any school test coordinators in the district in PANext. Refer to the [PANext User Guide](#).
- Feb. 5-March 14: Add students and update student information in PearsonAccessnext and place additional orders for initial ACT test materials
- Feb 5-March 16: Request ACT-approved accommodations on the ACT for eligible examinees through TAA using the ACT-Approved Late Consideration Form
- Feb. 16: Deadline to [Request Reconsideration](#) of ACT-approved accommodations on the ACT in TAA

WorkKeys

- Feb. 5-March 14: Order additional WorkKeys accommodations materials

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.

Assessment Administration Support and Training

- There will be no Assessment and Accountability Office Hours scheduled on February 13 due to the Mardi Gras holiday.

Reminder: Science Field Test

This spring, school systems will participate in the LEAP 2025 science field test. In order to support school systems in their preparation for this test, the Department released the LEAP 2025 Science Field Test Guides in the [Assessment Guidance](#) library.

In early January, the Department hosted science field test webinars for teachers. These guides and webinars include:

- the new science assessment vision,
- the shifts in science instruction necessary for mastery of the new science standards,
- administration of the science field tests, and
- science field test design.

Science field test webinars were recorded. The presentations and recordings are available in the [Assessment Guidance](#) library.

Reminder: LEAP 2025 and LEAP 360 Algebra I and Geometry Graphing Calculator

All LEAP 2025 and LEAP 360 Algebra I and Geometry tests and resources (spring summative tests, practice tests, OTT, interim and diagnostic tests) now have a fully functional online graphing calculator available. This graphing calculator, provided by Desmos, permanently replaces the graphing tool that has been available. Desmos has a free online graphing calculator available at www.desmos.com that students can use with any internet capable device.

Hands-on practice with the new graphing calculator and information on student use of the math equation builder tool will be provided in the [Using Online Mathematics Assessment Tools](#) session at the January and February collaborations.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

High School Pathways

New: CLEP Bulk Purchase Process Webinar

Please share this entry with district and school site administrators and testing coordinators.

The College-Level Examination Program® (CLEP) helps students receive college credit for what they already know, for a fraction of the cost of a college course. The CELP Bulk Purchase Program allows schools, districts, employers, and other institutions to cover the costs of CLEP exams for large groups of test takers. **To learn more about how to order CLEP vouchers for groups of students, school system and school administrators and testing coordinators are encouraged to participate in one of the following webinars using code iCLEP18:**

- [Thursday, February 15, 2:00-3:00 p.m.](#)
- [Wednesday, February 28, 2:00-3:00 p.m.](#)

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

New: Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA) Reconciliation

Please share with school system and school SCA administrators.

All final dual enrollment information for the SCA program is due by close of business on February 9. Funds not reported as being used by this deadline will be reallocated to other school systems per state policy. School systems must use a minimum of 90 percent of total funding to avoid reallocation of any balance that remains. Funds may be reserved to use for a Jump Start Summers program if reported by the deadline. All final enrollment information should be emailed to tiffany.thomas@la.gov.

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

New: LOSFA's Compete to Complete

Please share with high school counselors.

A completed FAFSA allows the U.S. Department of Education to determine a student's eligibility for federal student aid-a key factor in families' college decisions. That's why the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) has developed [Compete to Complete](#). Based on FSA data on **completed** FAFSAs, percentages in the Compete to Complete database are based on the number of completed FAFSAs divided by the most recent enrollment data.

Go to [Compete to Complete](#) to see where your school ranks in comparison to other schools. You will also find the **Monthly Champion**-the school with the highest percentage of completions for the present FAFSA cycle and the **Current Ranking**-a list of the schools with the highest increase from week to week.

Please visit the [LOSFA website](#) for more information.

Student Opportunities

Reminder: Jump Start Summers 2018 Request for Applications

Please share with School District Staff, School Administrators, Counselors, and Instructors.

Last week, the Department released the 2018 Jump Start Summers Request for Applications to help students prepare for college, career, and life success through summer training sessions. The Department is seeking school systems, charter management organizations, and third-party course providers willing to sponsor summer training sessions in collaboration with industry partners. Priority review and consideration will be given to applications received by February 28th.

Program providers must have at least one committed industry partner willing to provide students with on-site job shadowing and/or internships with student stipends, in order to be considered for Course Choice SCA funding to launch and sustain their student summer training programs.

Talent

Reminder: Teacher and Principal of the Year Application Deadline Extended

The 2019 Teacher and Principal of the Year application deadline has been extended to Friday, February 16, 2018. All applications and materials may be found on the Department's website. Candidates may enter the application portal by following steps on the online portal user guide.

All charter associations are asked to select at least one teacher and one principal to participate in the state-level process.

For questions, contact excellenteducators@la.gov.

Special Education

New: Revised High Cost Services State Plan

The [2017-2018 High Cost Services State Plan](#) has been updated with a technical amendment in order to ensure the MFP is deducted only once when applying the allocation methodology. The updated plan is linked above for your review.

If you have feedback or questions about the revisions, please contact lindsey.mingo@la.gov before COB this Friday, February 9.

Early Childhood

New: Training for the New Child Care Civil Background Check System Webinar

School systems and charter schools with licensed early learning centers and those offering services to early learning centers are invited to attend the upcoming Child Care Civil Background Check System webinars on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. and Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. These webinars will include the same information on how to login, set up an account, apply for a background check, monitor background checks, get results, and check eligibility. Please keep in mind, the background check changes will go into effect March 1, 2018.

- To join the webinar: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/earlychildhood/>
- Dial: 1-855-240-2575

For more information about Child Care CBCs, please email valerie.black@la.gov.

Data

New: Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar

Please forward to data coordinators.

The Department will hold office hours for data coordinators and data managers of SPC, SIS, SER, TSDL, STS, and AFR on **Thursday, February 15, at 1:00 p.m.** The data management team will be on hand to answer questions regarding the February 1 MFP collection (SPC, SIS and SER) and data submissions for TSDL and STS. No pre-registration is required.

To join:

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dcw/>.
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Select the "listen only mode."

Policy

New: January 2018 BESE Meeting Summary

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met on January 24 and approved a number of bulletin revisions and recommendations. Please see the [January 2018 BESE Summary](#) for the approvals that directly impact the activities of local school systems.

Email ryan.n.gremillion@la.gov with questions.

Federal Programs

New: Final ESSA and IDEA Allocations

Final allocations for the ESSA and IDEA Consolidated Application will be uploaded to eGMS in the next week. As noted during the Superintendents' Conference Call on December 7, final allocations account for the following adjustments:

- Reductions in the final ESSA, IDEA, and Perkins state awards appropriated by Congress
- Adjustments for revisions to student counts
- Adjustments for new and existing charter schools
- Distribution of the reserve once the previous adjustments are concluded

Once final allocations are uploaded to eGMS, LEAs will have to amend their applications to reflect the new allocation amounts. Budgets must be amended before new reimbursement claims may be submitted.

If you have any questions about the amendment process, please contact LDOE.GrantsHelpdesk@la.gov.

New: 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 will open on 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

Reminder: Health, Physical Education, and Vending Survey

As part of Revised Statute 17:17.4 and Senate Resolution 146, the Department is required to monitor and evaluate health and physical education and vending machine activities in school systems and provide an annual report to the Louisiana Legislature.

Therefore, **the Department is asking schools systems to complete a [survey](#) by February 9** to provide quality, accurate statewide data to the Senate and House Committees on Health and Welfare. Although school systems may collect information from multiple staff, only one person should complete the survey.

Please contact michael.comeaux@la.gov with questions.

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