



News for Louisiana

CHARTER SCHOOLS



January 18, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Improving outcomes for Louisiana's children is too important for any of us to do alone. Everyone has a unique role in this mission. With January being National School Board Recognition Month, I want to express my appreciation for the hard work and dedication of these elected and appointed officials.

An effective school board is laser focused on student achievement. They have the courage to make the difficult decisions that move children forward. Partnering with school system administration, they adopt a shared vision of success to overcome perceived barriers and find a way for their students, families, educators, and community.

Take a moment to thank your school board members this month and remind them that the choices they make impact student outcomes and the overall strength of our state.

Dr. Cade Brumley

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [January 19 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Office Hours: [January 24 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [January 24 at 3:45 p.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [January 25 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Office Hours: [January 26 at 9 a.m.](#)
- [Career and College Readiness Monthly Call](#): [January 26 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Super App due: January 27
- Creating Local April Dunn Act Procedures: [January 30 at 4:30 p.m.](#)
- CWA Monthly Call: [February 1 at 8 a.m.](#)
 - Alternative Education Monthly Call: [February 1 at 10 a.m.](#)

- Creating Local April Dunn Act Procedures (repeat): [February 1 at 4:30 p.m.](#)
- Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [February 7 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [February 9 at 9 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

Aspiring Educators Summit [Funding Request Form](#) due January 20

Math Refresh Principal Webinar: [January 30 at 1 p.m.](#)

Super App due January 27

[2023-24 Louisiana Scholarship Program Application closes](#) January 27

High Cost Services Round 1 Application closes January 27

[PPP Assurance Addendum](#) deadline: January 31

[School Support Institutes Monroe Cohort](#): January 31

[School Support Institutes Shreveport Cohort](#): February 1

OpenSciEd K-12 Expansion Informational Webinar: [February 1 at 9 a.m.](#)

[School Support Institutes Lafayette Cohort](#): February 2

[2022-2023 Graduate Diploma and Seal Orders](#) deadline: February 3

[School Support Institutes New Orleans Cohort](#): February 3 (new location)

[2023 Jump Start Convention and Child Welfare and Attendance Summit](#): February 8

AE Site Authorization [Submission Portal](#) deadline: February 14

Operations

Consolidated Monitoring Schedule for 2022-2023 SY

Please share with superintendents, federal program directors, and special education supervisors.

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 2022-2023 school year](#). This schedule is tentative, and the agency reserves the right to make adjustments as necessary.

The assigned statewide monitoring team leader will send a detailed monitoring notification reminder with necessary planning documents and instructions directly to superintendents, federal program and special education directors of each school system appearing on the monitoring schedule.

The [second quarter monitoring schedule](#) is available at this time. Quarterly updates will follow this announcement. Please contact LDOE-program.monitoring@la.gov with questions about the monitoring schedule or the programs listed or if your school system has been severely impacted by a disaster and is currently listed on the schedule.

Energy Grant Opportunity through the U.S. Department of Energy

Please share with school and school system leaders.

The U.S. Department of Energy has the following opportunities for clean energy improvements at K-12 public schools.

1. Schools can apply for the first round of the Renew America's Schools grant, up to \$80 million of the \$500 million program, to make energy improvements—especially in the highest-need districts across the country.
2. The Energy Champions Leading the Advancement of Sustainable Schools Prize (Energy CLASS Prize) program is accepting applications for up to 25 local education agencies to receive \$100,000 to staff and train select administration and facilities personnel as energy managers.

The deadline for concept papers is January 26. Please visit the [Grants for Energy Improvements at Public School Facilities](#) website for more information about these opportunities; contact The.Secretery@hq.doe.gov with questions.

National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grants

Please share the following announcement with all local educational agencies participating in the NSLP.

USDA has awarded Louisiana \$521,423, provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, and an additional funding amount of \$860,586 to be competitively awarded to School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the NSLP to purchase equipment to improve the ability to serve healthier meals, support scratch cooking, improve food safety, store fresh food, upgrade equipment, and help support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the School Breakfast Program (SBP).

Only those entities that participate in the NSLP will have access to online grant applications. Priority will be given to schools where the greatest percentage of enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Grant-related information is located at [2022 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants](#). Online applications will be accessible at the [Child Nutrition Programs Website](#). The application period will close on January 31. Please contact childnutritionprograms@la.gov with questions.

Assessment, Accountability and Analytics

ACT Match/No Match Files

Please share with testing coordinators.

ACT Match/No Match lists will be provided to school systems via ftp no later than Friday, January 20.

- All students in grade 12 must have an ACT score for inclusion in accountability unless they participated in LEAP Connect at the high school level. The ACT Match file includes the students who already have a test score on file with the department. They can participate in the spring ACT statewide administration, but the school system will be responsible for the cost of the assessment.
- The ACT No Match file includes students who do not have an ACT score on file with the department and should participate in the spring statewide assessment. LEAP Connect students have not been removed from the list, and they should be accountability coded with 94.
- In order for a WorkKeys certificate to be used in accountability, the student must have an ACT score. This includes LEAP Connect students.

The Department is not accepting requests to correct the files. There will be a data certification for ACT and WorkKeys in August. Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

LEAP Connect

Please share with testing coordinators.

The LEAP Connect Administration Webinar has been posted in the [Assessment Library](#) under the heading *ELPS, ELPT and LEAP Connect*.

- All test administrators must take the quiz before beginning administration of the assessment.
- All students who participate should have been identified no later than January 13 as evidenced by the IEP. Students must meet all criteria for participation in alternate assessment.
- All students who are on the Jump Start diploma pathway for students participating in alternate assessment must participate in LEAP Connect at the high school level in order to be counted as a graduate.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Dropout Corrections

Please share with accountability contacts.

It is extremely important that all dropout corrections be made during the EdLink dropout cleanup period. There will be no opportunity to correct dropouts in data certification for 2021-2022 or prior years during any data certification period (cohort graduation, assessment, ACT, DCAI). Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

eSER Updates

Please share with data managers and SER managers.

Important announcements and resources are included in the [eSER Resources guide](#). In addition, on January 13 the Department sent communication to confirm that the IDEA October 1 count deadline will be extended beyond January 19. An exact date will be provided later. Please contact systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Excellence in Authorizing Application Open

Please share with school system leaders.

Applications for the [Excellence in Authorizing Fellowship](#) will be accepted until January 20. The Fellowship was developed to build the individual and collective capacities of school systems in Louisiana to authorize using best practices. In conjunction with the LDOE, The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) will provide fellows with resources, professional development, and collaboration opportunities targeting charter school authorizing. Throughout the year-long fellowship, fellows will attend a series of hybrid courses aimed to enhance the expertise of local authorizers and introduce national best practices in charter school authorizing. Please contact schoolchoice@la.gov with questions.

Charter Board Governance Program Interest Survey

Please share with school system leaders and charter boards.

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) has launched a Charter Board Governance Program in an effort to provide consultancy, intervention, robust professional development, and collaborative mentoring opportunities designed to support school leaders and charter board member efficacy at no cost to Charter Boards. Services will be provided by a proven vendor. Please contact charters@la.gov if you are interested in the survey,

School System Financial Services

FY2022-2023 Second Quarter Financial Report

Please share with business managers and financial officials of Type 2 and Type 5 Charter Schools.

The First Quarter Financial Report for FY2022-2023 is due **January 31, 2023**. The quarterly report template is included in the workbook used to submit the annual operating budget. You are required to submit the entire workbook with updates to the Quarter 2 Budget tab. For more details see the Instructions for Quarterly budgets tab in the Workbook. The financial workbook, inclusive of 2nd Quarter updates, and the [Statement of Affirmation](#) should be submitted via email to CharterFinanceHelpdesk@la.gov.

If your organization operates more than one charter school, you must submit the financial report for each individual school.

If you have any questions or require further information, email CharterFinanceHelpdesk@la.gov or call 225-342-3617.

Career and College Readiness

2023 Jump Start Convention/CWA Summit Update

Please share with registered attendees.

The event agenda is now available in the Whova app. Attendees must pre-register for sessions within the app in order to be admitted throughout the day. Session selection will be available by **January 23**.

Announcements, copies of the presentations, the day-of schedule, and information about the event will be communicated through Whova, so it is imperative that attendees have downloaded the app prior to the convention. Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

AP Course Audit Deadline

Please share with AP teachers, school counselors, and administrators.

January 31 is the deadline for initial [AP Course Audit](#) submissions, all renewals, removal of teachers and courses, addition of online/distance learning courses, and AP Course Audit form approvals for 2022-2023 courses. Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

2023 Louisiana ACT Summit

Please share with school counselors, administrators, school system leaders, and CTE supervisors.

The [2023 Louisiana ACT Summit](#) will be held on **February 7** at the Pennington Biomedical Center in Baton Rouge. This event will provide attendees with the opportunity to gain new perspectives, expand their knowledge, and find solutions to problems facing the education and workforce landscape.

[Registration](#) is \$125. Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Judges in the Classroom/Students in the Courtroom

Please share with school and school system leaders and teachers.

Judges from across the state are engaging with students to highlight the importance of civic education and provide information on a variety of law-related topics—both in classroom settings and in their courtroom visits. Please see the [Judges in the Classroom/Students in the Courtroom Newsletter](#) for information on all programs and to learn about the ways our state's judges are connecting with students throughout the state.

Computer Science (CS) Education Advisory Commission

Please share with content supervisors, technology leaders, coaches, and K-12 teachers.

[Louisiana Act 541](#) (2022), the Computer Science Education Act, established the Computer Science Education Advisory Commission to provide recommendations to BESE through the Department for the development and implementation of a state action plan for the delivery of education in computer science in all public schools. The purpose of the Commission is to create a comprehensive statewide computer science education program that benefits all citizens, flows seamlessly between all levels of education, and meets the needs of a dynamic and competitive economy. The next meeting of the Commission is **February 1**, in the Thomas Jefferson Room of the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge. Agendas are posted in [BoardDocs](#), and meeting materials are available on the [advisory council website](#).

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

CVI Assessments: The CVI Range

Please share with special educators, service providers, and school and system leaders.

LA-AEM is hosting CVI Assessments: The CVI Range training by Cindy Guillot Champagne on February 2 from 3:30 until 4:30 p.m. Please [register](#) online; contact nabiha.mujahid@la.gov with questions.

April Dunn Act Training Rescheduled

Please share with special educators.

The Creating Local April Dunn Act Procedures training has been rescheduled.

- **Webinar Date:** January 30
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94046334008>
- **Meeting ID:** 940 4633 4008
- **Phone Number:** (312) 626-6799

- **Webinar Date:** February 1
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95358946749>
- **Meeting ID:** 953 5894 6749
- **Phone Number:** (312) 626-6799

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Principal's Webinar Series

Please share with principals and principal supervisors.

Each month, the LDOE hosts a webinar series for current school leaders and principal supervisors on best practices in school leadership aligned to the state's priorities. January's Practicing Principal Webinar will feature [Louisiana's Math Refresh](#), to be led by the Department's Math Division.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 30, 1-2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98516144298?pwd=VHoxSlhaNWwhFZUNrQWICS05MRHlzZz09>
- **Meeting ID:** 985 1614 4298
- **Passcode:** 125571

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Grow Your Own Learning Visit to Calcasieu Parish

Please share with school and system leaders.

There is one final opportunity to participate in a Grow Your Own Learning Visit this school year. Learning visits are an opportunity to see first hand a system's Grow Your Own strategy and implementation in a small group setting. System, school, and teacher preparation should register to reserve a spot on the visit to Calcasieu Parish on **March 9**. [Registration Form](#) should be submitted by **February 3**.

Contact toriano.hayward@la.gov with questions.

Present at the 2023 Educators Rising State Conference

Please share with school and system leaders.

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette will host students from middle schools, high schools, and colleges for the 2023 [Educators Rising Louisiana State Conference](#) on **March 17** from 8:15 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the UL Lafayette Student Union.

Aspiring and current educators, counselors, and leaders in middle school, high school, college, and district/state departments are invited to submit proposals for conference presentations, interactive workshops, panels, and/or a poster showcase. All [proposals](#) should be submitted by **January 27**.

March 3 is the deadline for [Conference Registration](#) and [Competition Registration](#). Please contact edrising@louisiana.edu with any questions.

Grow Your Own Program Implementation and Instruction Best Practices

Please share with school and system leaders.

During its January office hours, the Educator Development team will share updates related to aspiring educator initiatives. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive guidance from the LDOE and other attendees.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 25 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/3455048179>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1-346-248-7799
- **Meeting ID:** 345 504 8179

Contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Bulletin 130 Updates

Please share with system leaders, school leaders, human resource directors, data managers, and teachers.

For the 2022-2023 school year, teachers and leaders receiving a “Highly Effective” or “Effective: Proficient” (2.5 or higher) on the first observation will not require a second observation. A second observation may be completed upon request. Teachers and leaders scoring “Ineffective” or “Effective: Emerging” will still require a second observation.

Bulletin 130 also now requires a meeting to take place between the evaluator and evaluatee to discuss student learning targets. If no meeting occurs, the student learning targets shall not be used in the evaluation, preventing a final score calculation. Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

Compass Information System (CIS) Reminders

Please share with system leaders, school leaders, human resource directors, and data managers.

Please use the [CIS 2022-2023 Timeline](#) to assist in [monitoring](#) data entry in the [Compass Information System \(CIS\)](#). The following tasks should be complete at this time.

- School site rosters should be updated.
- Evaluators should be assigned for all teachers and school leaders. Teachers should have a teacher evaluation type, and school leaders should have a leader evaluation type, even if a waiver has been obtained for an alternate observation rubric.
- Teachers and leaders should have at least two Student Learning Targets (SLTs) entered and accepted in CIS at this time. Bulletin 130 now requires all SLTs be discussed in a meeting between the evaluator and the evaluatee.
- Observations should be entered into CIS as they are completed. Teachers and leaders who score “Highly Effective” or “Effective: Proficient” on the first observation do not require a second observation. The evaluatee may request a second observation. Those scoring “Ineffective” or “Effective: Emerging” will require a second observation.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

School Literacy Plans

Please share with school leaders.

Schools should begin planning for the development of site-based literacy plans as required by [Bulletin 741](#), Section 2307, which states that, beginning June 1, 2023, and triennially thereafter, each school shall develop and submit a foundational literacy skills plan for students in kindergarten through third grade. Planning resources, including webinars, guidance, and a literacy plan template are available in the [Literacy Goals Library](#). Schools should plan to have literacy plans, along with current literacy data, posted on their school websites this summer. Members of the Literacy Division are available to provide individualized support at the request of schools. Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.