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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

Last week, I was [unanimously reappointed](#) as Louisiana State Superintendent of Education by BESE. I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue serving my home state. Four years ago, it was my prayer that if I were chosen for this honor we would be successful. Through unprecedented disruptions that have ranged from the global pandemic to catastrophic hurricanes, we have helped Louisiana improve academically on both national and state measures. Thank you for the role you have played in this progress.



I know we can all agree that while we have taken positive steps forward, our work is far from finished. Too few students are mastering content. Too few graduates are moving on from high school ready for their next season of life. Too few opportunities exist to expand educational opportunities for every child. We will face these challenges together.

I promise to give you my best every single day. I'm excited to work alongside you, Governor Landry, our new legislature, and our strong state board. I look forward to taking our state to the next level of academic success.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- [Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: January 24 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Louisiana Scholarship Program Audit Webinar: [January 24 at 2 p.m.](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call: [January 24 at 2 p.m.](#)
- eScholar Office Hours: [January 25 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Healthy Communities Monthly Call: [January 25 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Monthly Practicing Principal Webinar – EdLink Workforce Dashboard: [January 29 at 1 p.m.](#)
- 2024-2025 School Choice Program-School Application Webinar: [January 30 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [January 30 at 3:45 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [January 31 at 10 a.m.](#)
- 2024-2025 School Choice Program-Family Application Webinar: [January 31 at 2 p.m.](#)

- Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call: [February 1 at 8 a.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [February 2 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Monthly Principal Webinars – Math and Literacy: [February 5 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Federal Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [February 6 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Overview Webinar for Data Managers, EdTech Directors, and LEA Security Coordinators: [February 7 at 1 p.m.](#)
- BESE-Authorized Charter Monthly Call: [February 8 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [February 8 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [February 8 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations (FSGR) Monthly Call: [February 15 at 10 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- [School Support Institutes Session 3](#): January 23-26
- [Summit Extension](#): January 24 (Baton Rouge) and January 26 (Lake Charles)
- Deadline to submit 2024-2025 Super App: January 26
- Deadline for [New Teacher of the Year](#) state-level submissions: January 26
- Deadline to complete [Counselor Evaluation Survey](#): January 30
- Deadline for Louisiana Scholarship Program schools to complete application verification in LEADS: January 31
- Deadline to complete [Act 567](#) school system actions: January 31
- Deadline to submit [Diploma and Seal](#) orders: February 2
- Deadline to submit [Computer Science Standards Writing Committee](#) applications: Feb. 5
- 2024-2025 School Choice Program Application Opens: February 5
- [ACT® Data Workshop](#): February 29, Baton Rouge

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

ACT

Please share with testing coordinators.

The deadline to upload additional students in Pearson Access^{next} is January 26. This includes students in grade 12 that are retesting. The LDOE will send a precode file to ACT for students in grade 11. Please note that students in grades 9 and 10 cannot participate in ACT state testing. Testing coordinators can order accommodated paper test materials for use in the test window in Pearson Access^{next} from January 22- February 9.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Jump Start Construction Scholarship Application

Please share with high school counselors.

The Louisiana Construction Education Foundation, Louisiana’s Community and Technical College System, and the Louisiana Department of Education are now accepting applications for the [Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program](#). This program is the state’s first and only scholarship dedicated exclusively to Jump Start graduates who have earned a Jump Start credential and a Louisiana high school diploma. Subsequently, these students are enrolled in an LCTCS Construction Pathway Program or Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) training program the summer or fall immediately following graduation. This scholarship will assist graduates in gaining the necessary training to earn industry employment in construction crafts fields aligned to four and five-star jobs that may lead to management positions.

Up to forty one-time scholarships will be awarded to eligible students. Applications are due April 19, 2024.

Please contact suzette.rabalais@la.gov with questions.

Fast Forward Career Option Codes

Please share with counselors, CTE supervisors, principals, and secondary supervisors.

Postsecondary Readiness will host a webinar discussing the recent Fast Forward Pathways Career Option Codes updates. The new codes became effective during the 2023-2024 school year.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 6 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99482276597>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID:** 994 8227 6597
- **Passcode:** 859060

Please contact caronda.bean@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

Apprenticeship Allocations

Please share with business managers.

In FY 2023-2024, the Legislature appropriated funding for apprenticeships to provide systems with additional support in the costs of providing apprenticeship training to students. The apprenticeship allocations will be released to eligible school districts on or before January 26. For more details, refer to the Apprenticeship Guidance document in the [Business Manager Support Library](#) under State Allocations.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

FY 2023-2024 Second Quarter Financial Report

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

The Second Quarter Financial Report for FY 2023-2024 is due January 31, 2024. The quarterly report template is included in the workbook used to submit the annual operating budget. It is required that the entire workbook with updates to the Quarter 2 Budget tab is submitted. The financial work, inclusive of the 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, there must be a submission for each school.

Please contact charterfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

2023-2024 Seal of Biliteracy Orders

Please share with data coordinators, school counselors, and school leaders.

Since the approval of [RS 17:273.4](#) in 2014, Louisiana students may earn the State Seal of Biliteracy by demonstrating literacy in English and another language. School systems should submit the [Diploma and Seal order form](#) for the 2023-2024 graduates along with the [Seals of Biliteracy Request Document](#).

All diploma and seal requests must be submitted through the electronic form. The deadline to submit orders is February 2. Only one form should be completed for each school system. The LDOE will cover the costs for the initial order and distribution request that are received by the due date.

High schools with at least five percent of their graduating class earning the Seal of Biliteracy will be recognized at the June BESE meeting.

Please contact language.aquisition@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

Spring Occupational Therapy Collaborative

Please share with special education directors.

This spring the Louisiana Occupational Therapy Association and the LDOE will partner to host a meeting in Baton Rouge for Lead Occupational and Physical Therapists working in Louisiana schools. The meeting will be held at the Claiborne Building (1201 N Third St. Baton Rouge) in the Thomas Jefferson Room on March 13 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The meeting will provide a chance for lead therapists to collaborate on implementation of Medicaid claiming and allow discussion of school health services relative to OT and PT practice in schools. One occupational therapist and one physical therapist from each school district is invited to [register](#) for this meeting. The deadline to register is February 29.

For more information please contact elizabeth.duncan@la.gov.

Educator Development

Aspiring Principal Fellowship 2024-2025 Application Available

Please share with principals and principal supervisors.

The Louisiana Department of Education is expanding the Aspiring Principal Fellowship (APF) for the 2024-2025 school year. APF cohort participants will meet throughout the year to explore best practices with regional experts, participate in school visits, and reflect on leadership practices. Participants will exit this fellowship with a robust leadership portfolio, the guidance of Louisiana's most successful principals, and a strong network of lifelong colleagues.

Applicants must hold a current EDL1 certification in Louisiana. School systems will be responsible for the cost of tuition for presenters, materials, and travel costs. Interested candidates should complete the [Aspiring Principal Fellowship Application](#) no later than March 8. Fellowship applicants will be notified of acceptance by March 28.

Additional information about the Aspiring Principal Fellowship can be found on the [APF overview document](#).

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Recruitment and Retention Fellowship Applications Available for 2024-2025

Please share with human resources directors.

In an effort to support HR professionals in recruitment and retention efforts, the LDOE is expanding the [Recruitment and Retention Fellowship](#) for a fifth cohort for 2024-2025 through a partnership with the national nonprofit organization, [Urban Schools Human Capital Academy](#). The fellowship gives Louisiana HR professionals the opportunity to collaborate with human capital professionals from across Louisiana and the country to learn best practices for attracting and retaining effective educators.

HR Directors who are interested in participating in the Recruitment and Retention Fellowship should complete the [application](#) by March 8. Fellowship applicants will be notified of acceptance by April 19.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Counselor Evaluation Survey

Please share with school counselors.

Counselors are asked to complete the [Counselor Evaluation Survey](#) to inform decisions regarding the counselor evaluation process. This feedback will help to inform adjustments to the Louisiana Counselor Observation Rubric. Please share with all school counselors to provide feedback. The deadline to complete the survey is January 30.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

School Of Choice

Charter Accountability

BESE-Authorized Charter Monthly Call

Please share with school leaders and system leaders.

These calls are held every second Thursday at 9:00 a.m.

- **Topic:** Super App
- **Webinar Date/Time:** December 14, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** [BESE-Authorized Monthly Call](#)
- **Meeting ID#:** 982 6291 1767

Please contact Charters@LA.GOV with questions.

Charter School Monthly Submissions

Please share with school leaders and system leaders.

Please refer to the [2023-2024 Charter School Reporting Calendar](#) for your December and January submission. Please contact your Director of Accountability for inquiries and guidance.

Please contact Charters@LA.GOV with questions.