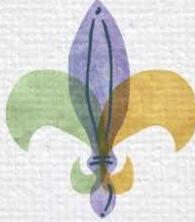


News for Louisiana



CHARTER SCHOOLS

November 30, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back from Thanksgiving break. I watched football, ate too much good food, and visited with loved ones – it was great. I hope you had a nice holiday as well.

As you know, we've been especially focused on our state's literacy crisis over the last couple of years. That effort is seeing promise. Louisiana led the nation for 4th grade reading growth on the most recent Nation's Report Card. That's worthy of celebration, but we have a long way to go and I need your help. We absolutely can create stronger reading outcomes for students in our state. I have been emphasizing the need for all classroom resources and instructional practices to emphasize the Science of Reading, primarily phonics, instead of whole language or balanced literacy approaches.

Over the Thanksgiving weekend, I began listening to a podcast called Sold a Story by Emily Hanford. It chronicles the so-called reading wars over the last several decades. There are six episodes in the series with each lasting around thirty minutes. If you're looking for a new podcast while you're cooking, driving, exercising, or just relaxing, consider this one.

Have a great week,

Dr. Cade Brumley

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Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- 2023-24 Louisiana Scholarship Program School Application Webinar: [December 5 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [Tuesday, December 6, 3:45 pm](#)
- BESE-Authorized Charter Schools Monthly Call: [December 8 at 9 a.m.](#)
- School System Financial Services Business Manager Monthly Call: [December 14 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [December 15 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Math Refresh Funding Office Hours: [December 6 at 10:30 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- 2023-24 Louisiana Scholarship Program Parent Application Webinar: [December 6 at 2 p.m.](#)
- 2023-24 Louisiana Scholarship Program Application Open: December 12 - January 27
- [2023 Jump Start Convention and CWA Summit](#): February 8

Office of School Choice

Charter Accountability

2022 – 2023 School Year Material & Non-Material Amendment Submission Deadlines

Please share this reminder with school and system leaders, Charter Board Point of Contact, Charter Board President, and Primary Charter Contact for LDOE.

Material Amendment requests may be submitted at any time. Please note that material amendments that require BESE approval may take several months to process depending on the complexity of the request.

Material Amendments are considered at the School Innovation and Turnaround Committee (SIT) meetings and then ratified by the full BESE Board following approval or denial of the request. For an item to be considered at the SIT Committee in the months outlined below, it is imperative that items are received by the Charter Accountability team by the dates listed below.

Failure to submit items by the dates listed in the table below may result in delays in consideration and/or the inability to agendaize the material amendment request at the desired BESE meeting.

2022 – 2023 School Year Material & Non-Material Amendment Submission Deadlines

BESE SIT Committee Meeting Dates	Material Amendment Requests & Supporting Documentation Due to Charter Accountability Team
March 7, 2023	January 9, 2023
April 18, 2023	February 20, 2023
June 13, 2023	April 17, 2023
August 22, 2023	June 26, 2023
October 10, 2023	August 14, 2023
December 12, 2023	October 16, 2023

Important Dates & Submissions for Charter Schools and Leaders

Important Upcoming Dates and Submissions		
<p style="text-align: center;">Website Compliance</p> <p>A link to the school website has been submitted via the Charter Contact Survey. School website monitoring elements are listed in the charter resource library on Louisiana believes website.</p>	<p>December 1, 2022</p>	<p>For additional support, please contact your school's Director of Charter Accountability or reach out to the Charter Inbox: charters@la.gov</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Annual Independent Audit</p> <p>Charter Schools are required to annually submit an independent audit conducted by a certified public accountant in accordance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R.S. 24:513 et seq. And 17:3996(F) • BESE Bulletin 126, §2507(A) 	<p>December 31, 2022</p>	<p>Audit must be submitted to the Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA) Louisiana Legislative Auditor</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p>1 copy to the LDOE Internal Audit team Dudley Garidel Dudley.Garidel@la.gov</p> <p>If you have any questions or require further information, contact Louisiana Legislative Auditor's office:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main: 225-339-3800 • Fax: 225-339-3870 • Louisiana Legislative Auditor
<p style="text-align: center;">Complete COMPASS Evaluation Ratings</p> <p>Final Evaluations: - Complete observations - Assess student outcomes ratings (BESE Bulletin 130, §301)</p>	<p>Opens January 1, 2023</p>	<p>Compass Information System (CIS)</p> <p>If you have any questions or require further information, contact: compass@la.gov</p> <p>For additional support, please contact your school's Director of Charter Accountability or reach out to the Charter Inbox: charters@la.gov</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Super App</p> <p>Super App enables LEAs to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. establishing priorities; 2. budgeting of federal formula funds; and 3. applying for competitive funds. 	<p>Opens January 1, 2023</p>	<p>Submission Location: eGMS</p> <p>Submission Support: Ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov</p> <p>For additional support, please contact your school's Director of Charter Accountability or reach out to the Charter Inbox: charters@la.gov</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Quarter 2 Financial Report</p> <p>Includes budgeted data for the fiscal year along with the YTD actual data through December 31. The 3 Quarterly and Annual Financial Reports include a statement from the Charter Operator's lead executive and Board President certifying the accuracy of the reports and the adherence to the Operator's Internal Control procedures. The Charter Operator must</p>	<p>January 31, 2023</p>	<p>This information should be submitted to charterfinancehelpdesk@la.gov</p> <p>For additional support, please contact your school's Director of Charter Accountability or reach out to the Charter Inbox: charters@la.gov</p>

<p>maintain records in compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.</p>		
<p>School Tuition Organization (STO) Reports/Tuition Donation Tax Credit</p> <p>The Tuition Donation Credit Program empowers Louisiana families with the financial resources to choose the school that best prepares their child for college and careers. This program, established by the Louisiana Legislature, authorizes School Tuition Organizations (STOs) to collect and use taxpayer donations to provide scholarships to students that meet the program's income requirements to attend nonpublic schools. All School Tuition Organizations are tax-exempt, not-for-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) status. Taxpayers earn a credit toward their Louisiana state taxes for the year in which they make a donation. This report provides an annual report re: donors and amounts donated.</p>	<p>Due annually, March 1. STO's are to report to LDOE no later than Jan. 1 annually and LDOE sends electronic format of report to Dept. of Revenue no later than Feb. 1, annually. LDOE may give a 30 day extension to STO's.</p>	<p>Ethan Melancon ethan.melancon@la.gov</p> <p>For additional support, please contact your school's Director of Charter Accountability or reach out to the Charter Inbox: charters@la.gov</p>
<p>Annual Report on T2, T4 and T5 Charter Schools</p> <p>Evaluation for BESE-Authorized Charter Schools</p> <p>The performance of type 2, type 4, and type 5 charter schools will be reviewed and/or evaluated annually in the following categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Academic performance; 2. Financial performance; and 3. Organizational performance. 	<p>January BESE Meeting (tentative date; confirmed date to be published in Charter Newsletter)</p>	<p>Ethan Melancon ethan.melancon@la.gov</p> <p>Ashley Townsend ashley.townsend@la.gov</p> <p>Nikki Landry nikki.landry2@la.gov</p> <p>For additional support, please contact your school's Director of Charter Accountability or reach out to the Charter Inbox: charters@la.gov</p>
<p>Additional information can be located in the Charter School Library on the Comprehensive Reporting Calendar</p>		

Operations

Reminder: Data Collection for Title I, Part A and D

Please share with superintendents and federal program directors.

The Department must report SY 2021-2022 student data for participation in Title I, Part A and D in the Consolidated State Performance Report (CSPR). The data will be collected in the [LEADS portal](#) **November 28 through December 31**.

The Annual Count (October count) for Title I, Part D will be collected in the [LEADS portal](#). Also, please complete Tables 1-5 for the Consolidated State Performance Report (CSPR). **This request is only for state agencies/school systems that receive Title I, Part D funds.**

Please contact edeltress.brown@la.gov with any questions.

Louisiana Comeback 2.0

Please share with federal program directors, IDEA supervisors and school system leaders.

LDOE recently discovered issues with some data within the Academic Recovery and Acceleration Plan PDFs. Corrected PDFs have been uploaded to the FTP, LEAs should review the uploaded documents for accuracy. The agency apologizes for this error as we understand this creates confusion for systems that are engaged in strategic planning using this information. As a reminder, if an LEA receives a returned application in need of edits, the revised plan should be submitted in eGMS within five business days.

Please contact LDOE.GrantsHelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability and Analytics

English Learner 2023 Proficiency Targets

Please share with accountability coordinators and EL supervisors.

Post-data certification rosters for SPS indices have been posted to school system FTPs. The ELPT post-data certification roster has been updated to include the 2022-2023 EL trajectory that can be found in the last column of the file (AF).

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

SPS Appeal/Waiver Form

Please share with superintendents and accountability contacts.

The SPS Appeal/Waiver Form is in the accountability library and must be returned no later than December 9 with original signatures. Superintendents must verify that they are not requesting an appeal of the SPS based on any data that could have been corrected during the data certification period per BESE policy. Requests for waivers of policy will be presented to BESE and may also require federal approval.

Please contact Jennifer.Baird@la.gov with questions.

ACT

Please share with test coordinators.

School systems must select spring ACT testing dates by December 9 in PearsonAccess. Systems should select March 7 for initial testing that is scheduled for March 7-9 and 14-16. Any students missing the initial testing window can test during the March 21 testing window.

Accommodations for LEAP 2025 High School Fall Window B

Please share with test coordinators and special education directors.

Accommodations for the LEAP 2025 high school fall administration opening on January 5, 2023 must be finalized on IEPs, IAPs, and EL Checklists no later than December 5, 2022. Requests for late consideration of an accommodation requires the completion of the Request for Late Accommodations Form.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

Monthly Call for Business Managers

Please forward to business managers and finance officials

The next [Monthly Call](#) of the 2022-23 fiscal year for Business Managers and Finance Officials will be December 14 at 2:00 pm via Zoom. The agenda will include information regarding upcoming due dates and other pertinent topics.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 14 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99726217222?pwd=ZWZ2NTgxeXRpTmxXK3g1eG1TQzN3Zz09>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-381-2552
- **Meeting ID:** 997 2621 7222

Please contact SchoolFinanceHelpDesk@la.gov with questions.

FY 2021-2022 Fiscal Risk Assessment

Please forward to business managers and financial officials.

The FY2021-2022 Fiscal Risk Assessment has been prepared for each school system to include the latest available data. Preliminary data and information about the assessment will be available on each school system's "edfin" FTP site no later December 2. These preliminary results will be presented to BESE during the December 14 meeting.

Please review and submit any comments or questions on the provided School System Response Form no later than Wednesday, December 7 to SchoolFinanceHelpDesk@la.gov.

Teaching and Learning

Diverse Learners

Full Alternate Assessment Participation 1% Cap Waiver Posted and Public Comment Open

Please share with special education leaders, educators and stakeholders.

Under the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Louisiana must limit the number of students who are assessed statewide on alternate assessments to 1 percent of the total number of students who are required to participate in statewide assessments. The Department recently posted its intent to seek a waiver extension for the 2022-2023 school year of this federal requirement and has now posted the [full waiver](#). Public comment is open through December 16. Comments may be submitted via email at specialeducation@la.gov. Please include your full name, organization (if applicable), and contact information. All comments are subject to public records requests.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions and comments.

2022-2023 High Cost Services Round 1 Application Available

Please share with special education leaders.

The High Cost Services (HCS) fund supports school systems who serve students with disabilities with complex needs by providing additional funding for high cost special education and related services. The 2022-2023 High Cost Services Round 1 application will be released in eGMS on November 30. To apply for HCS funds, school systems should complete the HCS application by **December 30**. More information about the HCS grant is available in the 2022-2023 overview [webinar](#) and the [State Plan](#).

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

New Teacher Experience: Professional Development Registration extended to December 2

Please share with new teachers.

[Registration](#) has been extended for The [New Teacher Experience Professional Development Modules](#) are on topics that are critical for new teacher success. Module One, Classroom Management and Culture, is offered at three different locations on the following dates:

- Thursday, December 8, 2022 (Alexandria)
- Friday, December 9, 2022 (Baton Rouge)
- Saturday, December 10, 2022 (Ruston)

[Registration](#) is free and offered on a first come, first served basis. Registration will close December 2. Please contact laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions.

New Teacher Experience: Affinity Groups Registration Extended to December 2

Please share with new teachers.

[Registration](#) for the [New Teacher Experience](#) Affinity Groups has been extended to December 2. Affinity Groups provide support for beginning teachers across Louisiana through monthly virtual meetings. The goals of these groups include the following:

- Creating a pathway for novice teachers to experience socialization and collaboration with their peers.
- Linking new teachers by a common purpose or interest (teachers of students with significant cognitive disabilities, second grade teachers, etc.).
- Ensuring an inclusive environment where new teachers are valued, included, and empowered to succeed.
- Improving their craft through discussion, collaboration, and purposeful materials and leadership in each group.
- Building new teachers' confidence in their abilities to instruct students and manage classrooms.

Participation is free, and seats are offered on a first come, first served basis. Registration will close on December 2. Please contact laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Lagniappe: New Episode Released

Please share with teachers, school leaders, and system leaders.

LDOE's podcast, [Teacher Leader Lagniappe](#) provides a little something extra for educators to stay inspired, motivated, and connected in the work with students.

In [Season 2, Episode 9: Love Leads to Knowledge with Louisiana Early Childhood Leader of the Year Rochelle Wilcox](#), Wilcox discusses what it means to value students, what makes a classroom special, and how to keep teachers around you motivated to go above and beyond for their students. She also shares how it feels to be the first recipient of the 2022 Louisiana Early Childhood Leader of the Year award. The Lafourche Parish School System makes Em smile this week for being awarded a Louisiana Model of Excellence for science instruction. Educators can [submit pictures and stories](#) of the great work happening in their system to be highlighted on the podcast. Subscribe through [Apple](#) Podcasts, Google Play, [Spotify](#), or other apps.

Please contact em.cooper@la.gov with questions.

Principal's Newsletter Appreciation

Please share with principals and principal supervisors.

Recognize school leaders in the December Principal's Newsletter by sending a shout-out of appreciation using this [survey link](#) by **December 13**. The Department's monthly [Principal's Newsletter](#) is designed to celebrate and inform building-level leaders around pertinent topics in school leadership. The December Principal's Newsletter will be released on **December 22**.

Please reach out to louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

2021-2022 Leader Evaluation Data Entry

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

Leader evaluation scores may now be uploaded into the [Compass Information System \(CIS\)](#) via a spreadsheet. The spreadsheet can be accessed by CIS administrators from the evaluation tab in CIS. The deadline to upload 2021-2022 leader evaluations is **January 6**. No evaluations may be entered or [uploaded](#) after this date. Early entry is encouraged to allow time for troubleshooting technical concerns.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.