



LDOE Weekly Newsletter: February 7, 2024

In This Issue

[Message from the Superintendent](#)

[Important Dates for School Systems](#)

[Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics](#)

[Career and College Readiness](#)

[School System Financial Services](#)

[School Choice](#)

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

A new study was released that shows Louisiana is a national leader for post-pandemic learning recovery. Here is some of what the [Education Recovery Scorecard](#) said about education in our state.

- Louisiana is one of three states (along with Illinois and Mississippi) where average reading achievement in 2023 was above 2019 levels.
- In math, Louisiana students recovered nearly half of their original loss in math, a remarkable achievement given that nationally, students have only made up one third of the original loss.

This is promising data, especially when combined with the progress we've seen post-pandemic on The Nation's Report Card, LEAP, and our statewide school performance score. I'm proud of Louisiana's teachers and our entire education community.

We also know that our work has only started. The report found that many school systems still remain two thirds of a grade equivalent or more behind their 2019 math achievement. Too many students are behind. Too many teaching positions remain vacant. Too many parents lack access to a quality education environment.

[As I shared with *The Advocate*](#) - we'll take a moment to celebrate, but we have to keep pushing.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- BESE-Authorized Charter Monthly Call: [February 8 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [February 8 at 9 a.m.](#)
- eScholar Office Hours: [February 8 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [February 8 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [February 15 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [February 15 at 3 p.m.](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call: [February 20 at 2 p.m.](#)

- Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call: [February 20 at 3:45 p.m.](#)
- Nonpublic Schools Monthly Call: [February 21 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Healthy Communities Monthly Call: [February 22 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [February 28 at 1 p.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [March 1 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Monthly Principal Webinars – Math and Literacy: [March 4 at 1 p.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- LEAP Connect/ELPT and ELPT Connect Testing Window Opens: February 19
- Extended Deadline - [Louisiana School Physical Activity Award](#): February 20
- Jump Start Summers Application Webinar: [February 22 at 1 p.m.](#)
- [Spring 2024 Counselor Institutes](#): February 27-29; statewide locations
- SFA Summer Feeding Plan Deadline: March 15
- SFA Non-Congregate Feeding Application Deadline: March 15
- Congregate Feeding Application Deadline: May 31

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

LEAP Connect Spring 2024

Please share with testing coordinators.

LEAP Connect materials have been delivered to school systems from DRC. Test coordinators should return the materials receipt form to DRC INSIGHT once they have done inventory no later than Wednesday, February 7.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

ELPT/ELPT Connect 2024

Please share with testing coordinators.

Some school systems will receive a random sample of students who are participating in ELPT Connect that must be scored by a primary TA and a secondary scorer. Directions for scoring and reporting will be provided with the student list no later than Friday, February 9.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Preparation for Cohort Graduation Data Certification

Please share with school counselors and testing coordinators.

The LDOE will open cohort graduation data certification in late March. In advance of this opening, the LDOE will be downloading records from STS to confirm that all diplomas have graduation dates for the 2023 cohort. Credential credit applied in the Strength of Diploma Index will only be awarded based on the credentials that are posted to the transcript in STS. School systems and counselors will want to check the transcript in STS for all students who will be included in the 2023 cohort. Students will not be counted as graduates without a graduation date on the transcript.

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

Career and College Readiness

Extended Deadline: School Physical Activity Award

Please share this with health and physical educators, principals, school staff, and system leaders.

The LDOE will recognize and honor exemplary schools implementing an outstanding physical activity program through the [School Physical Activity Award](#). Applications are being accepted for elementary and secondary public schools that are demonstrating a [comprehensive physical activity program](#) (CSPAP). The deadline to apply has been extended until February 20.

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

Jump Start Summers Application Webinar

Please share with administrators, counselors, librarians, teachers and system leaders.

A new application process has been created for Jump Start Summers. A session was presented at the Jump Start Convention, and a follow-up webinar will be held for those who could not attend.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 22 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95963000327>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID:** 95963000327
- **Passcode:** 066591

Please contact timberly.deville2@la.gov with questions.

Foundations of Open Educational Resources (OER) Cohort: Summer Professional Development Call for Applications

Please share with administrators, counselors, librarians, system leaders and teachers.

LOUIS: The Louisiana Network, a program of the Board of Regents, is accepting applications through March 31 to participate in a summer professional development cohort. Up to 20 school librarians and dual enrollment teachers from Louisiana public secondary schools will be selected and offered a payment of \$1,500 for successful participation in and completion of professional development activities. This summer 2024 (mid-May through June) professional development will occur virtually and largely asynchronously and will enable participants to gain fluency in Open Educational Resources (OER). [Details and the application](#) are now available.

Please contact timberly.deville2@la.gov with questions.

AP Exam Order Deadline

Please share with counselors, teachers, and testing coordinators.

The deadline for submitting any changes to existing [AP exam orders](#) or to submit new exam orders in AP Registration and Ordering is March 15 at 10:59 p.m. This includes courses that started during the spring semester.

Please contact charmaine.cureton@la.gov with questions.

Post-Secondary Readiness

New: Jump Start Construction Scholarship Application

Please share with high school counselors.

The Louisiana Construction Education Foundation (LCEF), Louisiana's Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), and the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) 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. [Applications](#) are due **April 19**.

Eligibility Requirements

Any high school senior with a National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) credential, will earn a Jump Start TOPS Tech Career Diploma and enroll in an LCTCS construction pathway program or an ABC training program in the summer or fall semester immediately following high school graduation.

Scholarship Award

Up to forty one-time scholarships of \$1,000 each will be awarded to students enrolling at an LCTCS program or an Associated Builders and Contractors training program.

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

Apprenticeship Quarterly Call

Share with CTE supervisors, principals, counselors, and secondary supervisors.

The postsecondary readiness team will host a quarterly apprenticeship call on the 3rd Tuesday, every four months at 11 a.m. beginning in February. The call will address apprenticeship opportunities and updates related to enrollment reporting, funding, and the development of programs.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Tuesday, February 20; 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92183263782?>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1-312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID:** 921 8326 3782
- **Passcode:** 936910

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

LELA-Financial Aid

As you work with seniors and their parents at financial aid events around the state, please share [Lela's FAFSA Completion Guide for the Class of 2024](#) for those requesting virtual assistance. As an incentive to submit, Seniors who plan to complete are eligible to enter [Lela's Monthly \\$1000 FAFSA Completion Scholarship Drawing](#). Winners will be announced on [Instagram](#) so follow us to see students win Cash for College.

For Seniors who are planning to attend a college in the state of Louisiana or for college students already attending, please share [Lela's \\$1000 CHOOSE Louisiana Scholarship](#) as an incentive to attend a Louisiana institution.

Reach out if Lela can help during this "Finally" FAFSA time.

Please contact Ann Carmichael carmichael@lpfa.com with any questions.

Healthy Communities

School Physical Activity Award

Please share this with school systems leaders, principals, health and physical educators, and school staff.

To recognize outstanding public elementary and secondary schools implementing an outstanding physical activity program, the Department will recognize and honor exemplary schools through the [School Physical Activity Award](#).

The deadline to apply has been **extended through February 20**; applications are being accepted for elementary and secondary public schools that are demonstrating a [comprehensive physical activity program](#) (CSPAP). A CSPAP is a multi-component approach by which school districts and schools use all opportunities for students to be physically active, meet the recommendations of physical activity each day, and develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence to be physically active for a lifetime. A CSPAP reflects strong coordination and synergy across all of the components: physical education as the foundation; physical activity before, during, and after school; staff involvement; and family and community engagement.

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Webinar

Please share this with K-12 school security staff, school and district administrators, emergency management professionals, regional and local personnel, and other members of the school safety community.

Please join the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) on February 20 at 3:00 PM EST for a [virtual training](#) on CISA and United States Secret Service resources available to address current threats facing K-12 schools and school districts. Resources and programs covered during this event will focus on topics such as bomb threats and threats originating on social media, threat assessment and reporting, and cyberattacks.

The training will feature speakers from the CISA School Safety Task Force, CISA Office for Bombing Prevention, and the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center, who will provide a brief overview of timely and relevant resources, products, and tools to enhance K-12 school safety and security. A Q&A session will be held for all attendees at the end of the event.

- **When:** February 20, 2024, at 2 p.m.
- **Where:** Webex (*access link to be provided to registrants one day in advance of the event*)
- **Registration:** <https://FederalResourcesK12SecurityThreats.eventbrite.com>

Please note that registration is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Contact michael.comeaux@la.gov with questions.

School System Financial Services

Professional Improvement Program (PIP) Webinar

Please share with business managers and financial officials.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 27 at 2 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91086644019>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 910 8664 4019

Please contact PIPfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with any questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Instructional Support: Instructional Materials Reviews

Please share with content supervisors, literacy coaches, and school leaders.

The LDOE conducts reviews of instructional materials to support school systems in adopting curricula in all core subjects. Newly rated Tier 1 materials include Kendall Hunt Publishing- OpenSciEd, Grade 7-8 (©2022). All tiered reviews can be found on the [annotated reviews](#) web page. The status of all instructional materials submissions can be found in the [weekly report](#).

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Funding Priorities Survey

Please share with administrators, community members, educators, and parents.

Each year, the LDOE submits a grant application on the use of state-level IDEA funds to the U.S. Department of Education. As part of this year's grant application development process, the LDOE is seeking feedback on how to prioritize funding for allowable special education activities. Any interested stakeholders, including school system representatives, parents, and other members of the public should complete the [survey](#) by March 6.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov for more information.

Dyslexia Training Opportunity

Please share with principals, special education directors, and system leaders.

Through a partnership between the LDOE and the Dyslexia Resource Center, a cohort of 25 educators will be selected to participate in a dyslexia practitioner training program. Certified teachers who are interested should apply to the program by completing the [Training Application 2](#) before April 15 and attend one of the following informational webinars.

Webinar Date and Time: February 29 at 5 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register>

Phone: 646 931 3860

Meeting ID: 862 9151 4793

Passcode: 534682

Webinar Date and Time: March 19 at 4:30 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register>

Phone: 309 205 3325

Meeting ID: 861 5999 5540

Passcode: 919998

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

The New Teacher Experience - Professional Learning Community Call

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

Offered quarterly, the New Teacher Experience Professional Learning Community meetings are virtual opportunities for system leads to share best practices related to developing and expanding new teacher induction programs. All school systems are invited to attend.

Webinar Date and Time: February 20 at 2 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92204488226?pwd=UkQ3ZklqYTZLTXR1MUUp5Y3dEcEQxZz09>

Meeting ID: 922 0448 8226

Passcode: 854673

Phone: 470 250 9358

Please contact laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions.

Aspiring Educators Attending 2024 Teacher Leader Summit Survey

Please share with counselors, principals, system leaders, and teachers.

The LDOE has a limited number of [2024 Teacher Leader Summit registration vouchers](#) for aspiring educators across the state. Also, for high school students only, there will be limited funding available to assist with the lodging and transportation expenses to attend Summit. The [registration vouchers](#) as well as the [lodging and transportation funding](#) will be based on system need, and considered on a first-come first-served basis. To apply for this support, please complete this [survey](#) by February 16 at 5 p.m.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

2024-2025 Evaluation Learning Year Training

Please share with all system and school leaders.

[Registration](#) is now live for the summer training on the [Louisiana Educator Rubric and the Louisiana Leader Rubric](#) which will be used during the 2024-2025 Evaluation Learning Year will take place this summer for system and school leaders and designated observers. [Registration](#) will open on January 31. This training is required for all evaluators and designated observers utilizing these rubrics.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

School 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:** ZEARN
- **Webinar Date/Time:** February 8th 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 February and March submissions. Please contact your Director of Accountability for inquiries and guidance.

Please contact Charters@LA.GOV with questions.