



News for Louisiana Charter Schools Newsletter: March 20, 2024

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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

This morning [we announced](#) the teachers and leaders who are one step closer to being named the state's best. Congratulations to our semifinalists for Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year and our finalists for Louisiana New Teacher and Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year. Your commitment to excellence is truly commendable.

Educators are valued professionals and it's important we celebrate them. It's also crucial to remember the importance of creating the best possible working environment for all educators. On Friday, I hosted the first meeting of our Let Teachers Teach workgroup. This meeting centered on concerns that take teachers off task. One of the early takeaways was the need to significantly reduce mandated trainings that are not focused on academics. Future meetings are planned around student behavior and curriculum and instruction.

Outside of the parent, teachers have the greatest impact on student outcomes. It's an honor to celebrate their achievements and elevate their voices.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call: [March 21 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Career and College Readiness Monthly Call: [March 21 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Monthly Practicing Principal Webinar: [March 25 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Diverse Learners Monthly Call: [March 26 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours: [March 26 at 3 p.m.](#)
- Preparation Provider Monthly Call: [March 27 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Teaching and Learning Monthly Call: [March 27 at 1 p.m.](#)
- School Systems Financial Services Monthly Call: [March 27 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Safe and Healthy Schools Monthly Call: [March 28 at 2 p.m.](#)
- Federal Nutrition Support Monthly Call: [April 2 at 1 p.m.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [April 5 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [April 11 at 10 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- [School Support Institutes Session 5](#): March 19-22
- [LCET Effective Transitions Workgroup Application](#) Deadline: March 22
- [\\$5 ACT Registration Voucher for School Counselors](#) Deadline: March 24
- Federal School Safety Clearinghouse [School Safety Grants Virtual Training](#): March 26
- Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities [Summer Workshop Application](#) Deadline: April 1
- [LCTCS Jump Start Construction Scholarship](#) Deadline: April 10
- [Robotics Lab Pilot Application](#) Deadline: April 10
- [Professional Learning Efficacy Evaluation Survey](#) Application Deadline: April 11
- SFA Non-Congregate Feeding Application Deadline: April 15
- Special Education Leader Collaborative: April 16
- [Teacher Leader Summit 2024](#): May 28-30, New Orleans
- Congregate Feeding Application Deadline: May 31

Career and College Readiness

K-12 School Safety Funding Opportunities

Please share with safety personnel, school principals, and system leaders.

The Federal School Safety Clearinghouse will host a [virtual training on school safety grants](#) available to the K-12 community on March 26. Presenters will discuss funding opportunities available from the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and U.S. Department of Justice.

SchoolSafety.gov's [Grants Finder Tool](#) will also be highlighted.

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

School System Financial Services

MFP - Career Development Fund (CDF) Final Allocation and Payments

Please share with business managers.

The final MFP payments for FY 2023-2024 CDF allocations will be released by the LDOE by March 31. For more details, please refer to the CDF Guidance and Allocation document available in the [MFP Library](#).

Please contact LDOEmfphelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

School System Relations

State-Level Honorees for Teacher/Principal of the Year and New Teacher of the Year

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

The LDOE is excited to announce the [2025 Teacher and Principal of the Year Semifinalists](#), the [2025 New Teacher of the Year Finalists](#) and the [2025 Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Finalists](#). These educators are making exceptional gains with students. Their commitment to student success exemplifies Louisiana's teaching profession.

All of the state-level honorees will be honored at the *18th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala*, which will be held at the National World War II Museum on the evening of July 27. This exciting event is co-sponsored by [Dream Teachers](#).

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Diverse Learners

Special Education Collaborative

Please share with special education directors.

Registration is now open for an [in person collaborative event](#) on April 16 from 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge. Special education directors are invited to join the diverse learner team for a day of discussion centered around special education updates, professional development, and networking.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Center for Effective Transition: Effective Transitions Workgroup

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

In the Fall of 2023, the LDOE was awarded a \$10 million Disability Innovation Fund Grant. This project establishes the Louisiana Center for Effective Transitions (LCET). Over the next five years, LCET will transform the current fragmented system of transition support offered to students with disabilities into a cohesive experience that improves success in post-secondary opportunities. As a vital link in the ongoing work of the LCET, the project has committed to establishing the [LCET Effective Transitions Workgroup](#). The LCET Effective Transitions Workgroup will engage with project leadership to provide insightful feedback on the tools, resources, and support necessary to assist students with disabilities.

To ensure the LCET Effective Transitions Workgroup reflects perspectives from across Louisiana, we are seeking representatives in each of the following areas:

- Children and Youth with Disabilities
- Family Members of Children and Youth with Disabilities
- Educators
- Administrators
- Private Sector Employers
- Policymakers
- Representatives from Disability Advocacy Organizations and Related Agencies

Individuals interested in participating in the LCET Effective Transitions Workgroup must complete the [LCET Effective Transitions Workgroup Application](#) by March 22. Eligible applicants will be invited to participate in a 30 minute interview with the LCET leadership team once the application period closes. Final members will be selected and notified no later than April 8.

Please contact lauren.miley@la.gov with questions.

Division of Diverse Learners

Dyslexia Screening

Please share with special education directors.

[ACT 266](#) requires teachers to screen all kindergarten students for dyslexia during the second half of the year or upon request of a parent/guardian or teacher.

Timeline for Next Steps:

February:

- Department will finalize the procurement process for a statewide kindergarten administration of the Shaywitz DyslexiaScreen.

March:

- Department will send rosters to special education directors.
- Special education directors will share rosters with site leaders.
- Site leaders will set-up screenings at the class level.
- Department will provide a live one hour training for kindergarten teachers with general information on dyslexia and the administration of the screener.

April:

- Kindergarten teachers will screen all kindergarten students.
- All screening to be completed by the end of April.

May:

- At-risk results are reported to parents or guardians within 30 days.

Monitor the weekly newsletter for updates.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

State Special Education Advisory Panel Application Open

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

The Department is looking for individuals interested in serving on the state's Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP), which advises and assists the Department with the provision of free and appropriate public education for individuals with disabilities across the state. Members of SEAP represent public and private sectors that by virtue of their position, interest, or training can contribute information in regard to the education of students with disabilities. Fifty-one percent of the members must be parents of a child with a disability (ages birth through 26) or individuals with disabilities. Anyone interested in serving in one or more of the roles listed on the application, should email their [application](#) to specialeducation@la.gov by April 8th.

FFY 24 IDEA Draft Application Posted for Public Comment

Please share with special education directors and stakeholders.

Each year the Department submits an [application](#) for IDEA funding. In February, 212 responses were received to the stakeholder input survey. The Department is currently in the public comment period for the draft of our IDEA application for FFY24. The grant application requires states to outline how state-level set aside funds will be spent in 15 different categories. To date, the final allocations each state will receive has not yet been released. The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has advised states to prepare the application using allocations from the FFY23 application, and upon receipt of the allocation tables, to insert the most updated information with the application. The dollar amounts shown may change based on the total allocation received from the federal government. The Department will update this document, along with other application documents, when allocations are received. Please submit [public comments](#) by April 19.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

LDOE Out-of-Field Certification Support

Please share with school leaders, system leaders, and classroom teachers teaching on an out-of-field certificate.

The LDOE is making [funding available to reduce barriers for certified teachers](#) teaching out of their field. Through this funding, the LDOE will be covering both the Praxis exam costs as well as the cost associated with updating teaching certificates. Interested system leaders should use [Edlink](#) to find and identify all teachers teaching out-of-field and send the

[Out-of-Field Praxis Support Application](#) to those teachers. Educators should complete the application before July 19. Post application emails to teachers will explain next steps in greater detail.

Please contact LouisianaLeaders@la.gov or Kevin.Nanney@la.gov with questions.

Staffing and Scheduling Bootcamps

Please share with counselors, principal supervisors, school leaders, and system leaders.

Registration is open for the staffing and scheduling bootcamps, which are designed to assist schools and systems in developing dynamic and effective schedules aligned to best practices. The full day bootcamp will include an overview of the staffing and scheduling best practices and allow system/school leaders to build effective schedules aligned to best practices. Participation is of no cost to school systems. School systems are encouraged to send principal supervisors, school leaders, counselors, and those who are involved in the staffing and scheduling process at the school level.

In addition to the in-person sessions, participants will receive follow-up coaching calls with each team to discuss team-specific questions, concerns, and challenges related to staffing and scheduling decisions.

Registration is currently open on a first-come, first-served basis.

- April 15: [Elementary Staffing and Scheduling Baton Rouge](#)
- April 17: [Secondary Staffing and Scheduling Baton Rouge](#)
- April 18: [Elementary Staffing and Scheduling Natchitoches](#)
- April 19: [Secondary Staffing and Scheduling Natchitoches](#)

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Deadline Extended for Recruitment and Retention Fellowship Applications for 2024-2025

Please share with human resources directors.

In an effort to support human resources 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 human resources professionals the opportunity to collaborate with human capital professionals from across the state and country to learn best practices for attracting and retaining effective educators.

The application deadline for the [Recruitment and Retention Fellowship](#) has been extended until March 29. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by April 19.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

School Improvement

School Support Institutes Session 5

Please share with school leaders and system leaders.

[School Support Institutes](#) Session 5 (face-to-face) is happening this week. Please see the [SSI logistics page](#) for updated parking, room assignments, lunch options, and pre-work for each venue and pathway.

- Wednesday, March 20 - Shreveport Cohort
- Thursday, March 21 - Lafayette Cohort
- Friday, March 22 - Baton Rouge Cohort

Registered participants will receive an email reminder. Attendees are reminded to have the information from their session 4 deliverable on hand for this session. Please see the [SSI logistics page](#) for zoom links and pre-work information.

Please contact ldoessisupportteam@tnp.org with questions.

School Choice

Charter Accountability

Newsletter Transition

Please share with school leaders, executive directors and system leaders.

Beginning the week of March 25, News for Louisiana Charter Schools will be published in the LDOE Weekly Newsletter. Current subscribers to Important News for Louisiana Charter Schools will receive the LDOE Weekly Newsletter each Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

BESE-Authorized Charter Monthly Call

Please share with school leaders, executive directors and system leaders.

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

- **Webinar Date/Time:** March 14 at 9 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/9826291176>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** (312)626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 982 6291 1767

Please contact Charters@LA.GOV with questions.