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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Colleagues,

A Louisiana school was recognized as a national model last week. North DeSoto High in DeSoto Parish won the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) Founder's Award and its \$50,000 grand prize. The school was selected for fostering educator excellence and successful instructional practices. [I encourage you to read more about this incredible achievement.](#)



All schools are unique, but there are key commonalities shared by North DeSoto High and fellow Founder's Award winners. They make instructional excellence the cornerstone of school improvement, have strong plans for regular professional learning focused on the real-time needs of teachers and students, are intentional with collaboration, and leverage teacher leaders to drive student growth.

Congratulations to Principal Tammy Phillips and Superintendent Clay Corley on this prestigious honor. Their success serves as an example to schools across Louisiana and beyond, reminding us of the transformative power of collaboration and a shared commitment to academic excellence.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours and Monthly Calls

- Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call: [March 7 at 8 a.m.](#)
- eScholar Office Hours: [March 7 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Data Coordinator Office Hours: [March 7 at 1 p.m.](#)
- Zearn Support for Middle School Leaders: [March 12 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Assessment and Accountability Office Hours: [March 12 at 3:45 p.m.](#)
- BESE-Authorized Charters Monthly Call: [March 14 at 9 p.m.](#)
- Educational Technology Monthly Call: [March 14 at 9 a.m.](#)
- Alternative Education Monthly Call: [March 14 at 10 a.m.](#)
- Certification Monthly Call: [March 18 at 10:30 a.m.](#)
- 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.](#)
- 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.](#)
- System Leaders Monthly Call: [April 5 at 9 a.m.](#)

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- [Monthly Counselor Connect Newsletter](#): March 7
- SFA Summer Feeding Plan Deadline: March 15
- [Youth Legislature Application](#) Deadline: March 15
- [Teacher Leader Summit Registration](#) Deadline: March 15
- Teacher and Principal of the Year Semifinalists Announced: March 19
- [\\$5 ACT Registration Voucher for School Counselors](#) Deadline: March 24
- [State Special Education Advisory Panel Application Deadline](#): April 8
- [LCTCS Jump Start Construction Scholarship](#) Deadline: April 10
- SFA Non-Congregate Feeding Application Deadline: April 15
- [Teacher Leader Summit 2024](#): May 28-30, New Orleans
- Congregate Feeding Application Deadline: May 31

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

LEAP 2025

Please share with testing coordinators.

The DRC INSIGHT portal will open on March 18 to:

- Download test coordinator and test administrator manuals
- Enter and assign test administrator numbers
- Complete test setup and print test tickets

Manuals for grades 3-8 will be delivered to school systems based on the selection made by systems during the October enrollment period in DRC INSIGHT.

- Week One: March 18-22
- Week Two: March 25-29

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

ACT/WorkKeys

Please share with testing coordinators.

ACT

- March 5-11: Print the *Accommodations and Supports Roster* to prepare for testing with accommodations and/or supports
- March 8-22: Prepare online test sessions in PearsonAccessnext WorkKeys
- Beginning Week of March 4, test materials are received in the school system, based on the receipt window selected in PearsonAccess^{next} for testing window 2
- March 4-11: ACT WorkKeys administration on paper with accommodations and/or supports for testing window 1

- March 4-12: Conduct sessions for students to complete non-test information on the answer document for paper testing. Note: Non-test information also may be completed on test day, prior to the start of test 1 (Workplace Documents).

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

2024-2025 ELA Innovative Assessment Program

Please share with school and system leaders.

The ELA Innovative Assessment Program (IAP) is a through-year assessment administered three times per year in grades 3-8. The ELA Guidebooks IAP curriculum-aligned assessments will be operational in 2024-2025 for grades 3-8 (see unit list below). There will also be some field testing in grades 3-5. Classroom and student reports are released approximately one month after the close of the assessment window, and students who participate in all three testing windows will not take the ELA LEAP 2025 assessment. An ELA curriculum-relevant pilot assessment will also be administered in grades 5 and 6 for school systems using other curricula.

The participation survey for the ELA Innovative Assessment Program (IAP) will be released this spring. 2024-2025 IAP ELA Operational Units are listed by testing windows below.

GRADE	WINDOW 1	WINDOW 2	WINDOW 3
3	Cajun Folktales	Because of Winn-Dixie	Louisiana Purchase
4	Hurricanes	The Lightning Thief	American Revolution
5	The Birchbark House	The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe	Shutting Out the Sky
6	Hatchet	Out of the Dust	If Stones Could Speak
7	The Giver	Written in Bone OR A Christmas Carol	Behind the Scenes
8	Flowers for Algernon	The Tell-Tale Heart OR The Call of the Wild	Sugar

Please contact Ruth.Cailouet@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness

Perkins Grant Technical Assistance Virtual Series

Please share with Perkins CTE supervisors.

The LDOE will host a series of virtual technical assistance meetings to help support school systems in understanding their Perkins data, completing the newly modified [Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment](#) (CLNA) for secondary systems, and completing the narratives and budget for the Perkins section of the Super App. The completion of the CLNA is required in order to receive Perkins funding.

Understanding Perkins data necessary for the Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment Part A

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 18 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93913804985>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID:** 939 1380 4985

Understanding the Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment Parts B

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 1 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91351835782>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID:** 913 5183 5782

Understanding the Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment Parts C and D

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 8 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92874849397>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID:** 928 7484 9397

Understanding the Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment Part E and completing the Perkins Super App Narrative and Budget

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 15 at 10 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96452082213>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID:** 964 5208 2213

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

School System Financial Services

FY 24 Year End Deadlines

Please share with school system financial officials.

The deadlines noted below have been established by the LDOE to ensure that all FY24 funding is used. Failure to meet these deadlines risks funding availability. The LDOE cannot guarantee the payment of late claims. Late claims may have to wait until the following fiscal year (June 2025) for funds to be available. We appreciate your cooperation and thank you for helping us be good stewards of our funds.

- June 19: 8g claims due in eGMS
- July 5: Carl Perkins and LDH claims for June expenses are due in eGMS.
- July 15: All other state and federal awards (excluding 8g, Carl Perkins, and LDH) ending June 30, 2024 are due in eGMS.

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

FY 2023-2024 Agricultural Science Program Allocation

Please share with business managers.

The FY 2023-2024 Agricultural Science Program allocation payments have been processed according to HB1 of the Regular Session 2023. The LDOE is providing guidance to answer some of the commonly posed questions related to the [Agricultural Science Program allocation](#) that was recently released to school systems.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Computer Science Allocations

Please share with business managers.

The Computer Science Allocations funding is to provide systems with additional funding to provide 6-12 public school teachers a unique opportunity to receive comprehensive training in preparation for the Computer Science Praxis exam. The computer science allocations were released to school districts on March 1. For more details, refer to the Computer Science Allocations Guidance document in the [Business Manager Support Library](#) under State Allocations.

Please contact schoolfinancehelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Financial Literacy Guidance

Please share with school and system leaders.

[Act 267 \(2023\)](#) requires all students entering high school in the 2024-2025 school year and beyond to complete a course in personal financial literacy. The [Financial Literacy FAQ](#) is available on the [Math Refresh page](#). Refer to the FAQ for graduation requirements, certification, and course content updates.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum Updates

Please share with content supervisors, school leaders, and social studies teachers.

The LDOE has published a new [curriculum guide](#) to support teachers and instructional leaders as they implement [Bayou Bridges](#) materials. The guide provides in-depth information on the program's guiding principles, design, key components and resources, unit and lesson study tools, along with sample lesson annotations.

Teachers and leaders should use this resource to help navigate the curriculum, to better understand its key components, and to effectively plan and implement Bayou Bridges lessons. This guide will continue to be updated as additional units are published.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana History Professional Development Opportunity

Please share with content supervisors, school leaders, and social studies teachers.

The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) will host the second annual Institute for Louisiana Culture and History (ILCH) intensive workshop for Louisiana social studies K-12 educators June 24-26 in New Orleans. This workshop will focus on Louisiana's Reconstruction-era history.

The summer intensive workshop will provide Louisiana public school social studies educators the opportunity to build their content knowledge by engaging with nationally known scholars, taking field trips promoting experiential learning, and participating in working sessions exploring standards-aligned resources from [64 Parishes](#).

Social studies educators, teacher coaches, and curriculum specialists employed by public schools in Louisiana can [apply](#) to participate in the summer intensive workshop. LEH will give preference to those working with grade 7 social studies content. Applications close April 1.

Please contact shelburne@leh.org with questions.

Diverse Learners

State Special Education Advisory Panel Application Open

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

The LDOE is looking for individuals interested in serving on the state's Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP), which advises and assists the LDOE 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 should send their completed [application](#) to specialeducation@la.gov by April 8.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov for more information.

Kindergarten Dyslexia Screening

Please share with kindergarten teachers, site leaders, and 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. Please see below for a timeline for next steps:

February:

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

March:

- The LDOE 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.
- The LDOE 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.

Please monitor the weekly newsletter for updates and contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

2024-2025 LEADS Evaluation Learning Year Training

Please share with all school and system leaders.

Evaluators and designated observers in school systems opting to transition to the Louisiana Educator and Leader Evaluation System (LEADS) during the 2024-2025 school year must register for summer training. The [registration landing page](#) has been updated to include a waiting list. Please cancel registration if your system is not participating or if you select a different training session in order to reopen your training seat.

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

School Choice

Charter Accountability

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.

- **Topic:** NIET Leader Rubric
- **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.