



News for Louisiana



CHARTER SCHOOLS

April 6, 2022

In This Issue

- [Important Dates for School Systems](#)
- [Operations](#)
- [Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics](#)
- [Career and College Readiness](#)
- [Teaching and Learning](#)
 - [Educator Development](#)
- [Reminders](#)

Important Dates for School Systems

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
P-EBT Data Managers Office Hours	April 12 at 10 a.m.
K-2 CLASS® Pilot Office Hours	April 12 at 12 p.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	April 12 at 3 p.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	April 12 at 3:45 p.m.
Data Coordinator Office Hours	April 14 at 1 p.m.
Science of Reading Implementation Office Hours	April 18 at 4 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Child Welfare and Attendance Monthly Call	April 6 at 8 a.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	April 7 at 1 p.m.

Charter Authorizers Monthly Call	<u>April 13 at 11 a.m.</u>
BESE Authorized Charter School Monthly Call	<u>April 13 at 3 p.m.</u>
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	<u>April 20 at 9:30 a.m.</u>
Nonpublic Monthly Call	<u>April 20 at 3 p.m.</u>
Federal Support and Grantee Relations Monthly Call	<u>April 21 at 10 a.m.</u>
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	<u>April 21 at 3 p.m.</u>
Legislative and Policy Support Monthly Call	<u>April 25 at 10 a.m.</u>
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	<u>April 26 at 3:45 p.m.</u>
Teaching and Learning Monthly Call	<u>April 27 at 1 p.m.</u>
Education Technology Monthly Call	<u>April 28 at 9 a.m.</u>
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	<u>May 3 at 1 p.m.</u>
System Leaders Monthly Call	<u>May 6 at 9 a.m.</u>

*Monthly call presentations are available in the [School Improvement Library](#). View the [School System Support Calendar](#) to access a complete schedule of events.

Upcoming Deadlines

[SPED Fellow Academy: Cohort 3 Application](#)

April 11-May 13

[Aspiring Principal Fellowship Application](#)

April 30

[Recruitment and Retention Fellowship Application](#)

April 30

[Cohort Graduation Data Certification](#)

May 4

[Social Studies Interest Survey](#)

May 4

Operations

Outstanding School Support Employee (OSSE) Nominations

Please share with system and school leaders.

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is requesting nominations for the [Outstanding School Support Employee Awards Program](#). The awards program provides the superintendent of each school system the opportunity to honor an outstanding school support employee at the elementary, middle and high school levels. The winners will be those support employees selected by local school systems for having rendered time and talents beyond the call of duty. Nominations are due April 9.

Please contact dana.dauzat@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, and Analytics

Future of the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program - Forthcoming Survey

Please share this announcement with school system and school leaders.

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is beginning the planning process for the future of the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP). The goal is to develop a plan for state assessments that honors [Louisiana's priorities](#) and builds upon the strong foundation of the current LEAP. An essential component to this effort is to gather feedback from stakeholders across the state of Louisiana for the purpose of informing this work.

We ask that educators and stakeholders complete a **forthcoming survey** that will be posted in the LDOE Weekly Newsletter beginning April 12th. The survey will be designed to take about 10 minutes and will be **available April 12–29, 2022**.

If you are a school system or school leader, we also ask for your help to spread the news about the survey to teachers, parents, and students. Examples of how you might share the news include posting the survey with a brief explanation on your school system or school website, sending the survey out in an email blast to teachers and parents, posting the survey link on your school system or school's social media.

Please contact Alissa Kilpatrick at alissa.kilpatrick@la.gov with questions.

LEAP 2025

Please share with district test coordinators.

- April 6: All grades 3-8 PBT materials delivered to districts as well as accommodated materials for CBT
- April 6-12: Materials receipt acknowledgement window for PBT
- April 19: Last day to order materials for all grades 3-8
- LEAP 2025 Field Test: DTCs for school systems that have schools selected for LEAP 2025 grades 5-8 science and/or social studies field tests were notified by email. Test session times for field tests are available in the [LEAP-at-a-Glance document](#) posted in the assessment library.
- Third year assessment cohort rosters are now posted to the ftp.
 - All students in high school grades must take an ELA, math assessment to meet federal law. The third year cohort rosters are designed to identify students who have not taken English I or II and/or Algebra I/Geometry.
 - Students must test even if they have not been enrolled in the course.
 - Students who transfer in from out of state, nonpublic school or home study with a credit do not have to test. The credit should be appropriately recorded in STS.
 - Students who participated in LEAP Connect in 2022 or a prior year do not have to test.
 - Test coordinators should not remove any third year assessment cohort students from DRC INSIGHT. The students must be tested or placed in a test session and assigned an accountability code if one can be documented.

Cohort Graduation Data Certification

Please share with district accountability contacts.

- Cohort graduation data certification is now open through May 4 in Louisiana Data Review.
- School system accountability contacts have been notified and provided with resources.
- This is the final opportunity to request changes to data that will be used to calculate the 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate and both graduation indices used in school performance scores.

ACT

Please share with district test coordinators.

- April 8: Deadline for accommodated paper materials to be returned to ACT to be scored. Late arriving materials will not be scored.
- See the Preparing for [State Testing FAQs](#)

Interests and Opportunities Preliminary Guidance

Please share this announcement with school system leaders and school leaders.

The preliminary Interests and Opportunities guidance has been published in the [Accountability Library](#). This guidance includes the menu, course codes, and general timeline information. Between now and June, information may be added to the guidance. Nothing will be removed from the menu or course offerings. A final guidance document will be published in June 2022.

Please contact accountability@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: 2021-2022 Teacher Roster Verification for VAM

The [Curriculum Verification and Results \(CVR\) Reporting Portal](#) roster verification ensures that teachers are assigned to the correct courses and classroom rosters of students for the purposes of value-added (VAM) analysis. The data in CVR will be used to calculate a teacher's VAM score even if the teacher and/or the principal do not verify the roster. Teachers instructing ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies (grades 4-8), and Algebra I, Geometry, English I and English II EOC courses (all grades) should verify their rosters as they are eligible to receive VAM scores.

- **Monday, April 4-Friday, April 22, 2022: CVR Open for View-only**

During this time, users can view and check roster data for accuracy, but cannot make changes in the CVR Portal. System Support will be available to assist with any issues that a school system must correct in EdLink 360.

- **Monday, May 2-Friday, May 20, 2022 (3 weeks): CVR Open for Roster Verification**

This process is required and allows teachers and principals the ability to verify and correct records for specific courses and students. Data managers will track verification completion at the school system and school level in the system.

An updated user guide for CVR is available [here](#).

Please contact LDOECVR@la.gov with questions regarding roster verification, and compass@la.gov with general Compass related questions.

Social Studies Assessment Advisory Group

Please share this announcement with social studies supervisors, school leaders, and K–12 social studies teachers.

The Division of Assessment Content is accepting applications for a Social Studies Assessments Advisory Group in addition to ongoing assessment development committees. The group will be comprised of social studies educators, primarily classroom teachers and coordinators. They will provide input as the Department develops new LEAP Social Studies assessments aligned to the 2022 Louisiana Standards for Social Studies and related assessment resources.

The advisory group will convene over the course of two academic school years, 2022–2023 and 2023–2024. There will be approximately six to eight meetings per year. All meetings will be held virtually after school for no more than two hours. Participation is entirely voluntary.

The deadline to complete the [interest survey](#) is May 4.

Please contact Beth Carney at elizabeth.carney@la.gov and Kelly Pizani at kelly.pizani@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies Source Review Committees

Please share this announcement with social studies supervisors, school leaders, and grades 3–8 and high school social studies teachers.

The Division of Assessment Content is accepting applications for the Social Studies Source Review Committees for grades 3–8 and high school Civics. Each committee will:

- include 4–6 social studies educators, primarily classroom teachers with extensive content knowledge or grade-level expertise;
- review proposed sources to ensure that materials are fair and appropriate for all students and will support the development of items that allow students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in social studies and align to the 2022 Louisiana Standards for Social Studies;
- convene for the first time in summer 2022 and on a regular basis during the 2022–2023 school year; and
- complete synchronous and asynchronous reviews during the 2022–2023 school year, with approximately 5 to 6 virtual meetings held outside of school hours.

Interested educators can access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees document](#) for committee details and links to apply to participate on specific committees.

The deadline to complete the [interest survey](#) is May 4.

Please contact Beth Carney at elizabeth.carney@la.gov and Kelly Pizani at kelly.pizani@la.gov with questions

Career and College Readiness

Jump Start Construction Scholarship Application

Please share with CTE supervisors, CTE instructors, and professional school counselors.

The Jump Start Construction Connect Scholars Program is accepting applications for up to forty one-time \$1,000 scholarships. [Jump Start Construction Connect Scholarship Applications](#) are due May 20.

Applicants must:

- Have a Jump Start TOPS Tech Career Diploma
- Have a National Center for Construction Education and Research credential
- Have a plan to enroll in an LCTCS campus on a construction pathway or in an Associated Builders and Contractors training program

Please contact megan.thompson2@la.gov with questions.

LDOE Virtual Therapy through Ochsner for Educators

Please share with all school employees Birth - 12.

Ochsner Anywhere Care is a secure virtual visit tool offering appointments with licensed therapists through your smartphone, tablet or personal computer—so you can get care where and when you need it! Schedule an appointment with the provider of your choice.

What can be treated? Addiction, Adolescent Counseling, Anxiety and Panic Attacks, Attention Deficit, Disorder (ADD/ADHD), Depression and Mood Disorders, Eating Disorders, Grief and Loss Counseling, Insomnia, Marriage and Family Counseling, Postpartum Depression, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Work-related Stress

Convenient virtual therapy appointments are available Monday – Friday until 8 p.m., with additional appointment times on Saturdays.

Sign up at ldoe.ochsneranywherecare.com and enter **Service Key: LDOE; Coupon Code: TEACH.**

Please email anywherecare@ochsner.org or for 24/7 technical support, call 855-667-9711.

Please contact rachel.bunch@la.gov with questions.

Office Hours Cancellation

Please share with all system leaders, school leaders, and professional school counselors.

Please note that the Office of Career and College Readiness's office hours webinar previously scheduled for April 7 has been canceled. Join us for our monthly call on [April 21 at 3 p.m.](#)

Please contact erica.spencer@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Educator Development

Aspiring Principal Fellowship

Please share with school leaders and school leader supervisors.

Congratulations to our first cohort of Aspiring Principal Fellows who completed their fellowship in March. This group of 22 aspiring principals represented 15 school systems from across the state and left the Aspiring Principal Fellowship with the critical knowledge and skills needed to serve in the principal role.

The Louisiana Department of Education is expanding the Aspiring Principal Fellowship for the 2022-2023 school year. APF cohort participants will meet throughout the year to explore best practices with regional experts, school visits, and reflection. 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 need to cover the cost of the \$1000 tuition for presenters and materials, as well as travel costs. Interested candidates should complete the [Aspiring Principal Fellowship Application](#) no later than April 30.

Additional information is available in this [overview](#) of the fellowship.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

CLASS® Train-the-Trainer Funding Opportunity

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

During the 2022-2023 school year, schools are encouraged to choose CLASS® or NIET (Tap/Best Practices) as an option to replace Compass for [K-2 Professional Practice](#).

Maintaining trained, certified observers is an important component sustaining the use of CLASS® in K-2. Funding is available for the [CLASS® Observer Train-the-Trainer](#) model for systems with CIR/UIR-A schools. At the school system level, the Train-the-Trainer model will allow school system leaders to build and sustain a cadre of certified observers.

Systems are asked to request HR directors or data managers to complete the [K-2 Professional Practice Information Survey](#) to provide information on current K-2 teacher observation rubrics and to help allocate seats for affiliate training.

Please contact lori.pennison@la.gov with questions.

Reminders

- [Operations](#)
- [Teaching and Learning](#)
 - [Academic Content](#)
 - [Diverse Learners Supports](#)
 - [Educator Development](#)
 - [Literacy](#)

Operations

Upcoming Webinar Opportunity: Understanding Childhood Obesity

Please share with school administrators, teachers, child nutrition program staff, health and wellness coordinators.

The Department, in conjunction with Pennington Biomedical Research Center will host a free [webinar](#) for teachers, school administrators, guidance counselors, child nutrition professionals and other interested stakeholders. The third webinar in the ***Understanding Childhood Obesity*** series will take place Wednesday, April 6, from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Online [registration](#) is now open. The webinar will feature a panel of experts from Pennington as well as Seattle Children's Hospital, and discuss prenatal influences on childhood obesity, treatment of childhood obesity in medical settings and opportunities for intervention. A panel discussion will follow, during which audience members will have the opportunity to ask questions.

Please contact melissa.campbell@la.gov with questions.

The 21st Century Community Learning Center RFA Released

Please share with Federal Program Directors.

The Department has released the [21st CCLC RFA](#). The purpose of the RFA is to obtain competitive applications from qualified applicants who are interested in establishing a 21st Century Community Learning Center.

Applicants will establish community learning centers, in partnership with local educational agencies, to provide students, particularly those who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools, with academic and enrichment opportunities to meet state and local academic achievement standards before and/or after school, as well as in the summer.

Please contact the Grants Management Help Desk at ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

2021 – 2022 High Cost Services (HCS) Round 2 Application Release

Please share with IDEA Directors.

The 2021-2022 High Cost Services (HCS) Round 2 application was released on March 14. The application submission process will close on Friday, April 8.

Special note, that the HCS Round 2 applications should only contain new students. Students who received an allocation in Round 1 cannot be included in the Round 2 application process.

Please contact the Grants Management Help Desk at ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning

Academic Content

Instructional Support: Instructional Material Reviews

Please share with content supervisors and administrators.

The Department conducts ongoing reviews of instructional materials to support school systems in adopting curricula in all core subjects. Newly rated Tier 1 materials are listed below. All tiered reviews can be found on the [Annotated Reviews](#) webpage. The status of all instructional materials submissions can be found in the [Weekly Report](#).

Publisher	Title and Grade Levels	Core Subject	Tiered Rating
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Into Literature, Grades 6-8	ELA	Tier 1
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Into Literature, English I-IV	ELA	Tier 1
Great Minds PBC	Eureka Math Squared, Algebra I	Math	Tier 1
Center for the Collaborative Classroom	SIPPS (Systematic Instruction in Phonological Awareness, Phonics, and Sight Words), Grades 3-8	ELA Intervention	Tier 1

Please contact louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners Supports

Guidance for Leading Inclusive Special Education Programs

Please share with school system leaders and special education directors/supervisors.

This week, the department released its third issue of Guidance for Leading Inclusive Special Education Programs: [Staff Well-Being](#). School system leaders are encouraged to review the guidance document along with special education supervisors and attend the hour-long webinar to support implementation on [April 8 at 1 p.m.](#)

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Educator Development

Educator Workforce Reports

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

The 2021-2022 Educator Workforce Report will be released as a live dashboard with information that is updated in real-time. The data release will shift to real-time reports in lieu of annual, static reporting. The dashboard will be released and housed on EdLink 360 by early summer. EdLink 360 Workforce Reports will:

- Grant access for system and school leaders, as well as data managers, to real-time workforce data
- Provide data inclusive of Out-of-Field/Uncertified teachers; salary over time; incentive pay over time; experience of departing teachers; effectiveness of departing teachers; certified teacher need for students with disabilities; percentage of SPED classes being taught by certified teachers

Dates for system and site leader trainings for this new platform will be forthcoming this summer.

Please contact emily.smiley@la.gov with questions.

CIS End of Year Closeout for Teacher Evaluations

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

The Department has issued a [CIS Timeline](#) to guide all school systems through the evaluation process deadlines for the 2021-2022 school year. To create a streamlined teacher evaluation upload process at the end of the year, it is recommended that all sites complete the following tasks in [CIS](#):

- Update rosters to reflect only 2021-2022 educators
- Assign evaluators and correct evaluation types to each educator
- Assign SLTs to each educator

The Compass Information System (CIS) will shut down for the 2021-2022 school year on September 1, 2022. Following this date, no teacher evaluation data for the 2021-2022 school year will be able to be amended or added. Please prepare to complete the following no later than August 26, 2022, in [CIS](#):

- Rate both SLTs for teachers and staff
- Enter professional practice scores for teachers and staff (A reminder that any teacher scoring a 2.5 or above is only required to have one professional practice score for the 2021-2022 school year only. This will be entered two times to ensure the CIS average is correct. Further guidance will be forthcoming.)
- Once data is uploaded, finalize teacher evaluations

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Listening Session Nominations

Please share with superintendents.

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) will be hosting a series of listening sessions across the state in response to the Teacher Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Task Force Preliminary Report. The listening sessions will provide the opportunity for stakeholders to describe their experiences and perceptions as well as offer suggestions on issues related to teacher recruitment, recovery, and retention. Stakeholders will include teachers, support staff, principals, district central office staff, superintendents, student teachers/teacher residents, teacher preparation providers, and parents/guardians of students. Each stakeholder group will participate in a facilitated listening session led by the Region 14 Comprehensive Center, an outside organization that is a partner with the LDOE in improving education in our state.

In addition to indicating interest in participation, we will ask that superintendents recommend chief talent officers, human resource directors, school principals, and teacher preparation providers from your parish for subsequent focus groups. From your recommendations, the Region 14 Comprehensive Center will ask participating school principals to recommend teachers and support staff who will be featured in the first listening sessions. It is important that the listening sessions include representation from across our state. To that end, the Region 14 Comprehensive Center will review inquiries from interested stakeholders to ensure representation. Please complete this short [survey](#) by Friday, April 15 to indicate your interest and recommendations for participants for the listening sessions.

Please reach out to brandy.branigan@la.gov for more information.

Recruitment and Retention Fellowship

Please share with human resources directors.

Human resources professionals have the opportunity to participate in the third cohort of the recruitment and retention fellowship through a partnership with the national non-profit organization, [Urban Schools Human Capital Academy](#). The fellowship gives Louisiana human resources 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. The fellowship also focuses on how systems can adjust their strategies during emergency events such as natural disasters and pandemics. The goals of the fellowship program are to:

- Transform HR departments into highly-functioning, strategic partners with in their systems to meet the mission of improved student outcomes;
- Build a network of human capital leaders across the state; and
- Change the perception of HR in education to ensure sustainable, long-term success.

HR Directors should complete this short [application](#) to indicate interest and key recruitment challenges from your school system. Applications are due **April 30**. Fellowship applicants will be notified of acceptance by May 13, 2022. Additional information can be found in this [overview](#) of the fellowship.

Please reach out to louisianaleaders@la.gov for more information.

Summer Learning Programs

Please share with summer learning program coordinators.

Summer learning programs require year-round planning. During the months of January through April, school systems can utilize the checklist located in the [Summer Learning Program Guidance](#) to continue planning for their 2022 program.

Earlier this year, the Department hosted a webinar to provide systems with updated guidance on planning and implementing summer learning programs. A copy of the [Summer Learning Program Overview webinar presentation](#) is available in the [School System Support Toolbox](#).

Beginning summer 2022, all CIR and UIR-A schools must provide a summer learning program that includes tutoring for all students.

Please contact Markecia.Barthelemy@la.gov with any questions.

School Improvement Best Practices

Please share with system leaders.

The [School Improvement Best Practices](#) strategy is designed to support schools in adopting the essential components that drive professional and student growth and will continue during the 2022-2023 school year. LDOE has partnered with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) to develop, implement, and support five [School Improvement Best Practices](#). The five best practices are:

- instructional leadership team support;
- teacher collaboration support;
- teaching standards support;
- principal standards support; and
- career pipeline support.

Educators may use this [link](#) to learn more about the [School Improvement Best Practices](#) strategy training sessions, what's new for Summer 2022, and the requirements for CIR and UIR-A schools to participate in the Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) Support and Teacher Collaboration Support training sessions, as well as the accompanying online portal and two days of on-site and/or virtual coaching as follow-up support to the training.

School systems may apply for funds through their Achieve! application or use other funding sources for schools without an intervention label.

School systems should complete this [form](#) to indicate the training they anticipate their schools will participate in. Upon receipt of the form, NIET will connect with the school system contact to begin planning. Completing the form does not commit systems to selecting these trainings, but it helps to inform the planning with NIET.

Please contact Markecia.Barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Staffing and Scheduling Initiative

Please share with school and system leaders.

School systems may use the [staffing and scheduling best practices](#) document for guidance in making staffing and scheduling decisions in preparation for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Staffing and Scheduling initiative launched last spring provides system and school leaders robust [guidance](#) and implementation support on developing strong staffing and scheduling models aligned to the best practices below.

1. High-quality core instruction is the foundation.
2. Effective literacy instruction is central to student success.
3. Students with unfinished learning and diverse learners need extra instructional time to catch up.
4. Both core instruction and acceleration must be provided by content strong staff.
5. Meeting the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of students supports academic achievement.
6. Equity should be at the forefront of all these strategies.

Additional staffing and scheduling best practices resources can be found in the [School System Support Library](#).

Please contact markecia.barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit: Two Weeks Left to Purchase Tickets

Please share with school and system leaders.

There are only two weeks left to register your teachers for the [2022 Teacher Leader Summit](#) which will be held Tuesday, May 31 - Thursday, June 2 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The Department is celebrating both "Making a Comeback" and our 10th year for this event. [Regular registration](#) will close on April 15 or at sellout. Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis.

UPDATE: New Orleans lifted the mask and vaccination mandate for entering facilities. Under the updated guidelines, Teacher Leader Summit will not require these.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

Middle and High School Professional Development Series

Please share with middle and high school teachers, leaders, and support staff.

The [eighth session](#) of a new professional development series focused on middle and high school literacy was released today! This session shares ways to build reading comprehension and implement support for struggling readers by using graphic organizers. All sessions in this series have been released in the [Literacy Library](#). Teachers and leaders can access the [Middle and High School PD Schedule](#) for a complete listing of session titles, session descriptions, and release dates. Feedback, suggestions, and requests for additional topics and sessions are welcomed.

Session Links:

- [Recording: Session 8 - Building Comprehension - Graphic Organizers](#)
- [Slide deck: Session 8 - Reading Comprehension - Graphic Organizers](#)

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.