Dear Colleagues,

As you know, next week the Department will publicly post school report cards and early childhood center profiles. These will be reported using historical metrics with which you are familiar, and you have already been provided with information about performance in your schools and centers. It is a great step forward for our state to report on the good work going on in early childhood centers alongside their counterparts in K-12 systems. My thanks to all who have put in years of hard work to make this possible.

Also new this year will be the Louisiana School Finder—an interactive online tool designed to help families more easily locate information on schools and early childhood centers across the state. The School Finder will include performance scores, CLASS ratings, and letter grades, and it will also provide families with a more complete picture of school- or center-based information. Included in the School Finder, for example, will be information regarding location, course offerings, and extra-curricular opportunities.

Also new this year will be a set of tools that can be used to explain Louisiana’s rating systems to parents, educators, and community members. Brief, animated videos for K-12 and early childhood, for example, explain the purpose and basic elements of the system. The Department also has created a toolkit for administrators to use when communicating with parents about this year’s results.

All of these efforts support the most fundamental purpose of the state’s rating system: to use the power of information to focus all involved in student learning. They represent attempts at making highly technical issues of policy and academics into digestible and meaningful communications. I hope you will not only review this year’s results with typical seriousness and attentiveness, but also that you and your colleagues will find ways to share their contents with teachers and parents in ways that are informative to them as well. The more we do this, the more we ensure that our collective dialogue about education is grounded in a shared understanding of both successes past and challenges ahead.

As always, thank you for all you do for our children,
John

In This Issue

- School System Support
- Assessment and Accountability
- Student Opportunities
- Talent
- Special Education
- Data
- Federal Programs
- Grants Management
Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events
- CVR opens for view only: November 1
- Registration for Jump Start Convention opens: November 1
- November School System Planning Call: November 1
- November Data Coordinator Webinar: November 2
- AP® Course Audit Process Webinar: November 2 at 3:30 p.m.
- College Goal Sunday: November 5 at 1:30 p.m.
- November Superintendents’ Call: November 7 at 10:00 a.m.
- Bossier Supervisor and Principal Collaborations: November 9

Important Deadlines
- Submit Louisiana Students of the Year Awards Program Information Form by November 1.
- Register for Principal and Supervisor Collaborations by November 3.
- Submit EEF application by November 3 (extended).
- Submit SRCL subgrant application by November 10.
- Submit Believe and Prepare: Full Preparation in Rural Communities application by November 10.

School System Support

New: November Superintendents’ Call
You are invited to participate in the Superintendents’ Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White on Tuesday, November 7, at 10:00 a.m. You may begin dialing into the call 15 minutes in advance. Please follow the instructions below:

1. Go to https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/suptscall/
2. Dial into the Phone Bridge: 877-475-0109
3. When prompted, please give the Meeting ID #7277206
4. You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting.

New: Register for the November Collaborations by this Friday
Registration for the Supervisor and Principal Collaborations closes this Friday, November 3, 2017. Supervisor Collaborations will take place from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and Principal Collaborations from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the dates below.

- November 9: Bossier
- November 13: Baton Rouge
- November 15: Lafayette
- November 16: Harvey

Featured Topics
- School System Planning
- Principal and Superintendent Reporting
- Transitioning to ESSA
- Content Leader and Mentor Training
- TAP and Principal Fellowship
- LEAP 360
- Science Curricula and Field Test
- LEAP Connect & ELPT Assessment Guides
- Special Ed & EL Guidebooks
- Financial Aid Planning & Course Choice
- Early Childhood Performance Profiles, Funding, and Coordinated Enrollment
- Educational Technology Initiative
Please refer to the Supervisor Collaboration Event Overview and Principal Collaboration Event Overview documents for a complete list of sessions and more detailed information. Please note, registration for supervisors requires a code from your network team.

Please email louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions related to the Collaborations.

**New: SRCL Subgrant Reminders**

This is a reminder that school systems applying for a SRCL subgrant must serve the entire span of birth to Grade 5, Grades 6-8, or Grades 9-12. Schools that do not serve the full span should partner with a feeder school to serve the complete span. Please see the SRCL webpage for updated FAQs and the subgrant application. Applications are due November 10.

Please email jill.slack@la.gov with questions.

**Reminder: November School System Planning Call**

The November School System Planning Call will take place tomorrow, November 1, from 1:00 until 2:00 p.m. The following school system supervisors should participate:

- early childhood supervisors
- district test coordinators
- accountability contacts
- curriculum supervisors
- Teacher Leader and mentor teacher supervisors
- high school and career and technical education supervisors

Webinar login information

- Webinar Name: November School System Planning Call
- Go to https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dpc.
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Phone number: 1-855-240-2575; PIN # 89147656.

**Reminder: Compass Deadlines**

Please note that December 31, is the deadline for the following important Compass tasks:

- entering principal evaluations
- entering social studies teacher evaluations
- updating 2017-2018 rosters

To enter 2016-2017 Compass data, please follow the instructions in the Quick Guide. Please contact compass@la.gov for more information.

**Reminder: 2017-2018 Teacher Roster Verification for VAM and TSGD**

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) and transitional student growth data (TSGD) analyses. This process takes place in the CVR system during two time periods to ensure enough time is available to verify records.

From November 1 until December 14, 2017, the CVR is open for view only. During this time, users can view and check the roster data for accuracy. This view-only period has been created to coincide with data submissions to the source data systems (i.e., Curriculum (CUR), Profile of Education Personnel (PEP), and Student Information (SIS) CLASS collections). Changes cannot be made in the CVR Portal during this time; however, any changes can be made in the source data submission process. The CVR
Portal will be updated every two weeks during view-only to reflect any submitted changes to the source data. The CVR Help Desk will be able to assist with any issues that a district must correct in the source data systems.

Please email ldoecvr@la.gov with questions regarding roster verification.

Reminder: Updated Grade 7 Social Studies Scope and Sequence Document Released
Please share with social studies teachers.

The Grade 7 Social Studies Sample Scope and Sequence document has been updated to provide support around the three shifts in social studies:
1. instructional tasks that build content knowledge and skill with sources
2. coherent yearlong frame that makes connections among content ideas
3. assessments that measure how well students express informed opinions with evidence and outside knowledge

Updated versions of grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and Civics are also available on the K-12 Social Studies Resources page and in each grade level teacher library.

Please email classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with any questions.

Assessment and Accountability

Please share with principals.

The Department will release the 2016-2017 school performance scores and early childhood performance profiles in the new Louisiana School Finder next week. All schools and centers are encouraged to host a parent night to discuss their results with families, and talk through school/center strengths and opportunities for improvement.

To support school and center leaders with these conversations, the Department has released the following resources:
- **Animated school performance score and performance profile videos**: video that will explain each metric in the Louisiana School Finder related to K-12 school and Early Childhood performance
- **Parent Night Presentations (K-12 and ECE)**: customizable presentations highlight school/center successes, explain the purpose of School Finder and the data included in it, and illustrate how families can support learning at home
- **School Finder Promotional Flyer**: one-page document directing families to the Louisiana School Finder and how to find information on their school

All resources can be found in the Principal Support Toolbox and on the School and Center Performance page.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.
**New: Release of LEAP 2025 High School Scale Score to Grade Conversion Tables**

The LEAP 2025 High School Tests Scale Score to Grade Scale Conversion Tables are designed to help school systems factor the LEAP 2025 Algebra I, English I, Geometry, and English II test scores into final course grades. Based on the uniform grading scale, these conversion tables are now available in the Assessment Library.

The existing conversion tables for EOC 4-level tests for Biology, English III, and U.S. History remain in the Assessment Library.

Note: BESE waived the requirement to include scores from some tests in final letter grades for the fall of 2017. The decision to use scores from these 5-level tests in the spring of 2018 is a district decision that must be included in the Pupil Progression Plan.

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<th>Spring 2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>include in final grade</td>
<td>include in final grade</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

**New: 2017-2018 BESE Accountability Changes**

At its October meeting, BESE approved changes to Bulletin 111 to reflect changes to Louisiana’s school accountability system for 2017-2018 and beyond. School and school system leaders can review a summary of these changes and contact Jessica.Baghian@la.gov with questions.

**Reminder: LEAP Connect and ELPT Assessment Guides and Achievement Level Descriptors**

**Assessment Guides:**

- Assessment guides for social studies have been updated to include new information about test design and, for U.S. History, session time limits.
- LEAP Connect and ELPT Assessment Guides have been posted to the Assessment Guidance library. Each guide contains information about
  - the purpose of the assessment
  - test designs
  - test administration policies
  - sample test questions
  - resources
  - rubrics
Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs)
ALDS for LEAP Connect and ELPT have been posted to the Assessment library, and describe the knowledge, skills, and abilities that students generally demonstrate on the assessment at each achievement level.

Please email assessment@la.gov for more information.

Reminders for District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

SPS Calculator: The 2017-2018 SPS Calculator is available in the accountability library. This calculator applies BESE-approved policies for the new accountability system as defined in the Louisiana ESSA plan. Please send questions to assessment@la.gov.

2016-2017 Subgroup CSV Files: On Friday, October 27, the department will provide districts and schools with LEAP spring 2017 results by subgroup in the DRC eDIRECT portal with file name LEA/Site Code_LEA/School 2017_LEAP_Subgroup_Summary_File. Please send questions to assessment@la.gov.

2016-2017 Progress Points for Fall 2017 SPS and DPS: The 2016-2017 K8 progress point rosters will be posted to the secure FTP no later than Friday, October 27. The rosters will include:

- a list of all schools and the total number of K8 progress points awarded to them for the 2016-2017 SPS, and
- a list of students eligible for consideration of progress points with their expected scale score and their actual scale score.

The progress point calculation in 2016-2017 is based on previous policy, which did not include student background characteristics. The expected scores reported for students are not necessarily the same as the expected scores calculated for teacher VAM. The K-8 Progress Points FAQ can be found in the accountability library. Please contact assessment@la.gov if you have any questions.

ACT: New high schools who have not received an ACT school code should submit requests should be completed through the ACT/SAT Common High School Code Request form. Requests should be submitted by the school and will take approximately 3 weeks to process.

WorkKeys

- Upcoming open enrollment webinars offered by ACT
  - Introduction to ACT WorkKeys Online Test Administration
  - Monday, Nov 6, 2017 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- The Score Reporting Schedule document contains complete information about the score reports ACT will produce and when you can expect to receive them. Additional resources can be found in the Score Reporting section of your program website at: www.act.org/stateanddistrict/louisiana
- The ACT Understanding Scores web page has resources for training and professional learning related to the ACT WorkKeys
  - If you have questions, you may
    - Use the Contact Us web page
    - Call 800.553.6244
    - Standard time, ext. 2800
    - Accommodations, ext. 1788
    - Email accommodations questions to ACTStateAccoms@act.org.

Fall High School Assessments: Test coordinators can begin preparing for test creation (scheduling, TA numbers) in eDIRECT.
Assessment Administration Support and Training: The November Monthly call will be recorded and posted in the Assessment Library on November 7. The updated Office Hours Questions and Answers document is also located in the Assessment Library.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Student Opportunities

New: 2017-2018 Pupil Progression Plan Update
Please share with school system supervisors.

The Department is working to develop a significantly streamlined Pupil Progression Plan (PPP) template and guidance document based on recent 4th and 8th grade promotion policy revisions approved by BESE in October. As a result of the delayed release, the submission deadline will be extended to February 1, 2018. The PPP and guidance document will be released on November 7 and will be available in Superintendent’s weekly newsletter and on the Graduation Requirements page of the Department’s website.

An informational webinar will be held to provide updates to assist school systems in completing and submitting the 2017-2018 Pupil Progression Plan. School system leaders and supervisors are encouraged to participate in one of the webinars scheduled for Tuesday, November 14 from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. or Tuesday, November 28, from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

To join the meeting:
● go to https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/ppp
● Audio access: (855) 240-2575 / access code: 38582295
● Enter meeting room as a guest and provide your name

For additional information please contact PPP@la.gov.

Talent

Reminder: Believe and Prepare: Full Preparation in Rural Communities Request for Applications

On September 26, the Department released a report, Access to Full Preparation for Teachers in Rural Communities, highlighting the unique challenges of preparing teachers to teach in rural communities.

In response to the survey results and educator workforce data highlighted in the report, the Department released a request for applications (RFA) on October 24. The RFA seeks eligible school systems that are committed to piloting innovative approaches to increase access to high-quality, residency based preparation programs that provide ample time for hands-on practice in the classroom with appropriate supports, including an expert mentor teacher.

Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 10.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov for more information.
Special Education

New: CANCELED Special Education Leader Monthly Webinar
The monthly Special Education Leader webinar scheduled for Thursday, November 2, at 2:00 p.m. has been canceled. The next webinar will be held on Thursday, December 7, at 2:00 p.m..

Please email specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Data

New: Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar
Please forward to data coordinators.

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for data managers of SPS, SPC, CUR, SIS, PEP, STS, SER, and AFR on Thursday, November 2, at 1:00 p.m. Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, enhancements, and best practices. No preregistration is required.

To join the November 2 Data Coordinator Webinar at 1:00 p.m.
- Go to https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dcw/.
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Select the "listen only mode."

The presentation will be posted on the INSIGHT coordinator's portal under Monthly DC Webinars by Wednesday, November 1.

Please email systemsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Data Files Available

(Please note that posting location for the files below are not the same.)

2016-2017 Subgroup CSV Files
This week, the Department will provide districts and schools with LEAP spring 2017 results by subgroup in the DRC eDIRECT portal with file name LEA/Site Code_LEA/School 2017_LEAP_Subgroup_Summary_File.

2016-2017 Progress Points for Fall 2017 SPS and DPS
The 2016-2017 K8 progress point rosters will be posted to the secure FTP no later than Friday, October 27. The rosters will include lists of
- all schools and the total number of K8 progress points awarded to them for the 2016-2017 SPS
- students eligible for consideration of progress points with their expected scale score and their actual scale score

The progress point calculation in 2016-2017 is based on previous policy, which did not include student background characteristics. The expected scores reported for students are not necessarily the same as the expected scores calculated for teacher VAM. The K8 Progress Points FAQ can be found in the accountability library.

Please contact assessment@la.gov if you have any questions.
Federal Programs

Reminder: Public Notice of Waiver Request
Please forward this item to federal program directors, business managers and financial officials of public school systems.

The Department is requesting a period of availability waiver from USDOE for the purpose of extending the availability of federal fiscal year 2017 ESSA 1003(a) school redesign awards from September 30, 2019, to September 30, 2021. This waiver would enable the Department to award three-year school redesign sub-grants to eligible LEAs.

Relevant personnel should review this waiver request and submit questions or comments to john.hanley@la.gov by Wednesday, November 8.

Grants Management

Reminder: Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application
The submission deadline for the FY2017-2018 Education Excellence Fund (EEF) application has been extended to Friday, Nov. 3. For assistance with creating, completing, and submitting applications in eGMS, see the Training section of the eGMS Logon page.

For more information about EEF, please email doe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov.

Policy

Reminder: October 2017 BESE Meeting Summary
The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met on October 18 and approved a number of bulletin revisions and recommendations. Please see the October 2017 BESE Summary for the approvals that directly impact the activities of local school systems.

Reminder: Student Fee Policies
As communicated in the June 20, September 5, and September 12, 2017 weekly newsletters, House Resolution 183 of 2017 urges and requests all public school governing authorities, including local school boards and charter school governing boards, to enact and publish policies relative to student fees. Please refer to the Guidance on Student Fees if your governing board has not yet enacted and published these policies.

Next month, the Department will administer a formal survey to all local school boards and charter school governing boards to collect this detailed information in order report back to the Legislature by January 1, 2018. That report will identify the LEAs that have and have not adopted such policies, whether the policies contain the information requested in the resolution, and whether the policies have been published on the LEA’s website as requested by the Legislature. The same will be collected from non-public schools that are participating in the Louisiana Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence program.

Please note that legislation is being considered for this issue for the 2018 Regular Session, based on evidence received that LEAs have or have not taken action in response to this request.

Please email erin.bendily@la.gov for more information.
Safe and Healthy Schools

**New: Tobacco-Free Policy Guidance and Technical Assistance**

The Louisiana Department of Health’s [Well-Ahead Louisiana program](https://www.dhe.gov/Well-Ahead) is offering technical assistance and guidance for meeting the requirements of [ACT 351](https://www.capitol.gis.gov/acts/351/), that prohibits the use of tobacco on school property through the release of a [sample tobacco-free policy](https://www.dhe.gov/files/policies/ACT351_Tobacco-Free_School_Policy.pdf) and [sample language to communicate tobacco-free policy revisions](https://www.dhe.gov/files/policies/ACT351_Tobacco-Free_School_Policy_Revisions.pdf).

Please contact [michael.comeaux@la.gov](mailto:michael.comeaux@la.gov) if you have any questions.