

# NONPUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE NEWS

*A Publication for Participating Nonpublic Choice Schools*



January 25, 2018

## In This Issue:

### Important Dates for Nonpublic School Choice Programs

#### Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

#### Tuition Donation Program News

#### School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities (SCP) News

#### All Nonpublics

#### Other Department Newsletters

## Important Dates for Nonpublic School Choice Programs

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
All nonpublics	1/26/18	<a href="#">Register</a> for Supervisor and Principal Collaborations	School leaders
All nonpublics	1/31/18	Apply for <a href="#">Louisiana Team Nutrition Training Grant</a>	School leaders
LSP	2/2/18	Complete ACT action items	High school district test coordinators
LSP	2/23/18	Deadline to mark all new Scholarship applicants students as eligible in <a href="#">SEE</a>	School leaders or Scholarship contacts located outside Orleans

## Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

### New: Registration for the January/February Supervisor and Principal Collaborations Extended

Registration for the January/February [Supervisor](#) and [Principal](#) collaborations has been extended to Friday, January 26 due to school closures last week. Sessions will focus on supporting school systems in planning for the 2018-2019 school year.

Registration is open in [Wisdomwhere](#). The Registration code for Supervisor Collaborations is **2018SUPR**. There is no registration code for Principal Collaborations.

Date	Location
Tuesday, January 30	Claiborne Building 1201 N.3rd St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802
Thursday, February 1	Jefferson Parish Public School Board 501 Manhattan Blvd. Harvey, LA 70058
Wednesday, February 7	Bayou Church 2234 Kaliste Saloom Rd. Lafayette, LA 70508
Thursday, February 8	Trinity Methodist Church 1000 Woodward Ave. Ruston, LA 71270
<p><a href="#">Supervisor Collaborations</a> 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</p> <p><a href="#">Principal Collaborations</a> 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>Contact <a href="mailto:louisianateacherleaders@la.gov">louisianateacherleaders@la.gov</a> with questions.</p>	

## **New: February School System Planning Call Rescheduled to February 21**

The date for the February School System Planning Call has been changed again to February 21 at 1:00 p.m. due to the Mardi Gras holiday and is reflected in the updated [schools system support calendar](#).

## **New: Alternate Assessments for Scholarship Recipients**

Students enrolled in the Louisiana Scholarship Program are required by Bulletin 133 to take standardized assessments. Some students, however, may be eligible for Louisiana's alternative assessments as outlined below.

### **LEAP Connect**

The LEAP Connect ELA/Math assessment is for students in grades 3 - 8 with a LAA1 IEP classification. LEAP Connect is aligned to the K-12 Louisiana Connectors for Students with Significant Disabilities and provides built in supports. The testing window for LEAP Connect is February 5 - March 16. All Scholarship Program students classified as LAA1 are required to take this assessment. For more information, please view the LEAP Connect Test Coordinator Manual and Test Administrator Manual in [eDIRECT](#). For any questions, please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).

### **ELPT**

ELPT (English Language Proficiency Test) is aligned with the Louisiana Connectors for English Learners. These connectors act as a bridge between academic content and language. Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, the ELPT will be administered instead of the English Language Development Assessment (ELDA). Students who take ELPT are those who are enrolled in K-12 and have been identified as an English Learners (EL). The testing window for ELPT is February 5 - March 16. All Scholarship Program students identified as EL are required to take the ELPT. Tuition Donation Program students are not required to take this assessment. For additional guidance and support, view the [ELPT FAQ](#) and visit the [ELPT portal](#). For any questions, please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).

If you believe you have any students who are eligible for these alternate assessments, please reach out to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).

## **Reminder: 2018-2019 Dual Enrollment Policy Update**

### **Please share with school system supervisors and high school administrators.**

The Louisiana Board of Regents recently approved new [minimum requirements](#) for dual enrollment coursework. The new policy addressed course content and rigor, faculty qualifications, and student eligibility.

Additionally, the Board adopted a revision to the minimum requirements for entry-level, college-level mathematics and English. The [revised policy](#) defines the threshold for access to entry-level, college-level courses. The policy allows for a pilot on placement with co-requisite delivery.

**An informational webinar will be held to assist school systems in dual enrollment policy implementation for the 2018-2019 school year.** School system supervisors and high school administrators are encouraged to participate in the webinar.

2018-2019 school year. School system supervisors and high school administrators are encouraged to participate in the webinar scheduled:

- **Tuesday, February 6, from 3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

To join the meeting:

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/de/>
- Enter meeting room as a guest and provide your name

For additional information please contact [highschoolacademics@la.gov](mailto:highschoolacademics@la.gov).

## **Reminder: Applications for the Louisiana Scholarship Program Now Open**

Applications for the Louisiana Scholarship Program are now available until February 23rd at [www.louisianabelieves.com/scholarship](http://www.louisianabelieves.com/scholarship). Applications for schools located in Orleans Parish are available via <https://enrdlnola.org> until February 23rd.

The Department hosted an application and enrollment webinar for schools accepting new students earlier this week. The presentation from the webinar can be found [here](#). If you have questions about the application, please first consult the [Application Guide](#). If your questions are not answered by the Application Guide, contact [StudentScholarships@LA.gov](mailto:StudentScholarships@LA.gov).

## **Reminder: Verifying Eligibility for New Applicants to the Scholarship Program**

Schools located outside Orleans are responsible for verifying student eligibility for all individuals applying for the Louisiana Scholarship Program. Acceptable eligibility documentation can be found in the [Application Guide](#).

Once a student has been deemed eligible, schools must mark the family as eligible in SEE and provide the family with a [receipt](#). Directions for marking students as eligible can be found [here](#). Schools located inside Orleans are recommended to direct families to one of the Family Resource Centers for eligibility verification.

Schools do not need to keep eligibility documents on file at this time—they only need to provide families with the application [receipt](#).

## **Reminder: Reminders for District Testing Coordinators**

### **General**

- INSIGHT now includes a Desmos graphing calculator for all high school summative and nonsummative assessments. Updated Help files will be included for high school math Online Tools Trainings. Supervisors can learn more about the new Desmos online graphing calculator at the January/February collaborations.
- All changes to the role of District Test Coordinator, Backup District Test Coordinator, Accountability Contact, or Backup Accountability Contact must be submitted to LDOE using the [DTC and Accountability Contact Update](#) form.

### **LEAP 2025**

- Teacher Access versions for grades 3-8 practice tests are now available in eDIRECT.

### **LEAP 360**

- LEAP 360 Grades 3-8 Math Interim 2 is now available in INSIGHT for students.
- Interim School and Test Session Summary Reports are now available in [eDIRECT](#).

### **English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT)**

- The ELPT assessment window is February 5 - March 16.
- DTCS should ensure that the ELPT secure browser is installed on all testing devices that will be used for ELPT testing. The ELPT secure browser can be downloaded [from the ELPT Portal](#).
- The Student Response Check is available in INSIGHT through the LEAP Connect Online Tools Training, under the link "Student Response Check." The purpose of the SRC is to ensure that a test administrator can clearly identify the mode of communication a student uses.
- ELPT test administrators should review the [Test Administrator User Guide](#) prior to testing. The user guide supports test administrators who manage testing for students participating in the ELPT online tools training and operational tests.
- The Online Tools Training is available for [ELPT](#). Students and test administrators must review these trainings prior to testing.
- District and School Test Coordinators should review the Test Information Distribution Engine to understand how to perform the following functions:
  - Registering students for assessments
  - Establishing test settings and accommodations
  - Associating students with districts, schools and rosters
  - Creating and approving testing appeals
- The Test Administrator Manual is posted in the [ELPT Portal](#).
- Districts will receive materials January 23. The additional material window will open February 5. Additional material orders are placed through [TIDE](#).
- The ELPT [Accessibility and Accommodations Manual](#) is posted in the [ELPT Portal](#).
- Training Modules for the ELPT summative test are available in the Resources section of the [ELPT Portal](#).

## LEAP Connect/LAA1

- The LEAP Connect and LAA1 assessment window is February 5 - March 16.
- The Online Tools Training is available for [LEAP Connect](#). Students and test administrators must review these OTTs prior to testing. OTT Directions for Administration are posted to [eDIRECT](#) under General Information, then Documents.
- Districts will receive materials January 26. The additional material window will open on January 29. TAs should review the LEAP Connect DTA up to two days prior to the test to ensure they are prepared to administer the assessment.
- The Student Response Check is available in INSIGHT through the LEAP Connect Online Tools Training, under the link "Student Response Check." The purpose of the SRC is to ensure that a test administrator can clearly identify the mode of communication a student uses.
- The LEAP Connect *Procedures for Assessing Students Who Are Blind, Deaf, or Deaf-Blind* guide is posted in [eDIRECT](#). The directions for grades 3-4 Foundation Reading sections will be securely shipped to LEAs.
- The LEAP Connect Test Administrator Quiz is posted in [eDIRECT](#). DTCs and STCs should use this as a part of test administration training.

## ACT

- **February 2** is the deadline to:
  - verify and upload students in to PANext
  - submit requests for ACT-approved accommodations in TAA
  - order ACT accommodated materials
  - install ProctorCache software and setup proctor caching in PANext for ACT online testing only
- DTCs are required to make changes to any school test coordinators in the district in PANext. Refer to the [PANext User Guide](#).

## Assessment Administration Support and Training

### Assessment and Accountability Office Hours

- Tuesday, January 30, 2017, at 1:00 p.m.
- Webinar link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/assessment-accountability/>
- Phone Number: 1-646-307-1380; Participant PIN code: 89147656

Please email [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

## Reminder: Submitting Transfers for the 2017-18 SY

As in previous years, [transfer forms](#) must be completed and signed by the **receiving school** and sent to [StudentScholarships@LA.gov](mailto:StudentScholarships@LA.gov). Families in Orleans parish should be directed toward the receiving school, not the Family Resource Centers. Students should not purchase uniforms or begin attending the new school until the transfer has been processed and approved by the Department of Education.

If you have a particular question or concern regarding a transfer request, you can email [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov) or call (504) 304-5467.

## Tuition Donation Program News

### New: Registration for the January/February Supervisor and Principal Collaborations Extended

Registration for the January/February [Supervisor](#) and [Principal](#) collaborations has been extended to Friday, January 26 due to school closures last week. Sessions will focus on supporting school systems in planning for the 2018-2019 school year.

Registration is open in [Wisdomwhere](#). The Registration code for Supervisor Collaborations is **2018SUPR**. There is no registration code for Principal Collaborations.

Date	Location
Tuesday, January 30	Claiborne Building 1201 N.3rd St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802
Thursday, February 1	Jefferson Parish Public School Board 501 Manhattan Blvd. Harvey, LA 70058
Wednesday, February 7	Bayou Church 2234 Kaliste Saloom Rd. Lafayette, LA 70508

Thursday, February 8	Trinity Methodist Church 1000 Woodward Ave. Ruston, LA 71270
<a href="#">Supervisor Collaborations</a> 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. <a href="#">Principal Collaborations</a> 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Contact <a href="mailto:louisianateacherleaders@la.gov">louisianateacherleaders@la.gov</a> with questions.	

## **New: Alternate Assessments for Scholarship Recipients**

Students enrolled in the Tuition Donation Program are required by Bulletin 134 to take standardized assessments in English and math. Some students, however, may be eligible for Louisiana's alternative assessments as outlined below.

### **LEAP Connect**

The LEAP Connect ELA/Math assessment is for students in grades 3 - 8 with a LAA1 IEP classification. LEAP Connect is aligned to the K-12 Louisiana Connectors for Students with Significant Disabilities and provides built in supports. The testing window for LEAP Connect is February 5 - March 16. All Tuition Donation Program students classified as LAA1 are required to take this assessment. For more information, please view the LEAP Connect Test Coordinator Manual and Test Administrator Manual in [eDIRECT](#). For any questions, please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).

If you believe you have any students who are eligible for these alternate assessments, please reach out to [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).

## **Reminder: Reminders for District Testing Coordinators**

### **General**

- INSIGHT now includes a Desmos graphing calculator for all high school summative and nonsummative assessments. Updated Help files will be included for high school math Online Tools Trainings. Supervisors can learn more about the new Desmos online graphing calculator at the January/February collaborations.
- All changes to the role of District Test Coordinator, Backup District Test Coordinator, Accountability Contact, or Backup Accountability Contact must be submitted to LDOE using the [DTC and Accountability Contact Update](#) form.

### **LEAP 2025**

- Teacher Access versions for grades 3-8 practice tests are now available in eDIRECT.

### **LEAP 360**

- LEAP 360 Grades 3-8 Math Interim 2 is now available in INSIGHT for students.
- Interim School and Test Session Summary Reports are now available in [eDIRECT](#).

### **Assessment Administration Support and Training**

Assessment and Accountability Office Hours

- Tuesday, January 30, 2017, at 1:00 p.m.
- Webinar link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/assessment-accountability/>
- Phone Number: 1-646-307-1380; Participant PIN code: 89147656

Please email [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

## **Frequently Asked Questions and Contact Information**

Information about the Tuition Donation Program can be found in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and [Scholarship Programs Comparison Chart](#). Currently, Louisiana has three School Tuition Organizations participating in the Tuition Donation Program: ACE Scholarships Louisiana, Arete Scholars Louisiana, and New Schools for Baton Rouge Excellence Scholarship Fund. Schools interested in participating in the TDR program should communicate directly with one or more School Tuition Organizations.

School Tuition Organization	Regional Focus	STO Website	Email	Phone
ACE Scholarships Louisiana	Statewide	<a href="http://www.acescholarships.org">www.acescholarships.org</a>	<a href="mailto:TDR@acescholarships.org">TDR@acescholarships.org</a>	504-491-1813
Arete Scholars Louisiana	Statewide	<a href="http://www.aretescholars.org">www.aretescholars.org</a>	<a href="mailto:maryhw@aretescholars.org">maryhw@aretescholars.org</a>	225-245-3610
New Schools for Baton Rouge Excellence Scholarship Fund	Baton Rouge	<a href="http://newschoolsbr.org/our-approach/excellence-scholarship-fund">newschoolsbr.org/our-approach/excellence-scholarship-fund</a>	<a href="mailto:esf@newschoolsbr.org">esf@newschoolsbr.org</a>	225-395-1686

# School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities (SCP)

## **Reminder: School Choice Program Participating Schools**

The Department is currently in the process of reviewing all submitted Notice of Intent applications to ensure schools wishing to participate in the School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities meet eligibility requirements. Further action items will be forthcoming via the newsletter and email.

Once the list of participating schools for the 2018-19 school year is finalized, the Department will release student applications. Families may access applications at [www.louisianabelieves.com](http://www.louisianabelieves.com) as well as at participating schools.

Please email [nonpublicschools@la.gov](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov) with any questions.

## **Reminder: Submitting Transfers for the 2017-18 SY**

If a student wishes to transfer a School Choice Award for Students with Exceptionalities, [transfer forms](#) must be completed and signed by the receiving school and sent to [nonpublicschools@la.gov](mailto:nonpublicschools@la.gov).

## All Nonpublics

### **New: 2018 LA Regional Science Bowl Registration**

The U.S. Department of Energy is looking for school teams to join the National Science Bowl being held at the University of New Orleans on March 10 from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

- There is no registration fee for the event, but teams will be selected on a first come, first served basis.
- The top four teams will receive cash prizes.
- First place winners will be invited on an all-expenses paid trip to compete for the national title in Washington DC.

Please view the Science Bowl Guide on the [DOE's website](#) for more information or contact [Michael.Anderson@SPR.DOE.GOV](mailto:Michael.Anderson@SPR.DOE.GOV) with questions.

### **New: Flu Season Update**

The Louisiana Department of Public Health has released a [memo](#) updating Louisiana schools and day care centers of the severe flu season occurring across the state. Schools and centers are advised to take all precautions to ensure that students and staff exhibiting flu-like symptoms are sent home promptly and remain at home until they are fever-free for at least 24 hours.

The memo includes helpful information about how to identify flu-like symptoms, and steps to take to prevent a flu outbreak in schools. If school or center leaders suspect a flu outbreak in their school or daycare, they should immediately contact the Louisiana Office of Public Health Infectious Disease Epidemiology Hotline at 800-256-2748 for assistance.

### **Reminder: Team Nutrition Training Grant Application**

The Louisiana Department of Education and Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) have teamed up to support healthier schools with funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Team Nutrition Training Grant. The three-year grant will allow the Department and the LDH to support environments that are conducive to healthy eating and physical activity through resources, funding, and professional development to schools.

We encourage all schools that meet the grant requirements to apply for the grant. The Department and the LDH will select 15 schools that will be awarded \$5,000 (\$2,500 in 2018-2019 and \$2,500 in 2019-2020) to implement the following strategies:

- incorporating nutrition education into the classroom;
- communicating health messaging across multiple channels;
- implementing Smarter Lunchrooms strategies; and
- other changes that will help create a healthier school environment.

The grant information is also included below:

- [Louisiana Team Nutrition Overview](#)
- [Grant Guidelines](#)
- [Grant Application](#)

**All applications should be submitted by January 31.** Please contact [stephen.guccione@la.gov](mailto:stephen.guccione@la.gov) if you have any questions or visit the [Louisiana Fit Kids website](#).

## Other Department Newsletters

To view the **January 23rd District Newsletter** or the **January 18th Nonpublic School Choice Newsletter**, please [visit the LDOE Newsroom](#).

To be added to the newsletter distribution list, please send an email to [studentscholarships@la.gov](mailto:studentscholarships@la.gov).

### LDOE Contacts

[John White](#)  
State Superintendent of Education  
877.453.2721 (toll-free)  
Twitter @LouisianaSupe

### LDOE Links

[LDOE Website](#)

[Contact Us](#)

STAY CONNECTED

