

NONPUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE NEWS

A Publication for Participating Nonpublic Choice Schools



February 1, 2018

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Important Dates for Nonpublic School Choice Programs

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
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 SEE	School leaders or Scholarship contacts located outside Orleans
SCP	3/16/18	Upload SCP applications to FTP	School leaders or School Choice contacts

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

New: EAGLE Sets for Social Studies Released

The Department released thirteen new item sets for social studies in EAGLE. EAGLE 2.0 is an online assessment tool that supports formative assessment in the classroom and can be used to enhance student learning throughout the year. To access the new item sets listed below, log on to [eDirect](#) and then filter the item bank by grade and subject.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with any questions.

New: Science Field Test

This spring, all school systems will participate in the LEAP 2025 science field test. In order to support school systems in their preparation for this test, the Department released the LEAP 2025 Science Field Test Guides in the [Assessment Guidance](#) library.

In early January, the Department hosted science field test webinars for teachers. These guides and webinars include:

- the new science assessment vision,
- the shifts in science instruction necessary for mastery of the new science standards,
- administration of the science field tests, and
- science field test design.

Science field test webinars were recorded. The presentations and recordings are available in the [Assessment Guidance](#) library.

New: LEAP 2025 and LEAP 360 Algebra I and Geometry Graphing Calculator

All LEAP 2025 and LEAP 360 Algebra I and Geometry tests and resources (spring summative tests, practice tests, OTT, interim and diagnostic tests) now have a fully functional online graphing calculator available. This graphing calculator, provided by Desmos, permanently replaces the graphing tool that has been available. Desmos has a free online graphing calculator available at www.desmos.com that students can use with any internet capable device.

Hands-on practice with the new graphing calculator and information on student use of the math equation builder tool will be provided in the [Using Online Mathematics Assessment Tools](#) session at the January and February collaborations.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

New: 2018 Jump Start Convention Presentations Online

Thank you for attending the 2018 Jump Start Convention. All session presentations may be found on the [All Things Jump Start web portal](#).

For more information, please email jumpstart@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: 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.

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.

If you believe you have any students who are eligible for these alternate assessments, please reach out to 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 or secure shipping address must be submitted 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](#).
- January/February Principal and Supervisor Collaborations will include a LEAP 360: Making Connections session. The participants in this session will explore LEAP 360 Diagnostic and Interim assessments. This session will highlight ways that LEAP 360 can be used to encourage conversation and inform instruction and assessment.

English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT)

- The ELPT assessment window is February 5 - March 16.
- Districts received ELPT 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](#).
- DTCs may access Security Checklists through [TIDE](#). Go to Paper Ordering, choose Order History, choose the "+" next to the name of the school, click Reports, and open the file labeled "Online_SecurityChecklist."

LEAP Connect/LAA1

- The LEAP Connect and LAA1 assessment window is February 5 - March 16.
- The additional materials window opened January 29. Additional material orders are placed through [eDIRECT](#).
- 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 TA Quiz is posted in [eDIRECT](#). DTCs and STCs should use this as a part of test administration training.
- LEAP Connect/LAA1 Security Checklists are posted in [eDIRECT](#). Go to Report Delivery, choose View Reports, and choose the LEAP Connect/LAA1 Spring 2018 administration.
- Districts will receive all LEAP Connect materials by February 1.
- TAs should review the LEAP Connect DTA up to two days prior to the test to ensure they are prepared to administer the assessment.

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](#).
- The ACT Test Administration Q&A held on January 23 will be posted to the [ACT State Testing](#) site this week.

Assessment Administration Support and Training

Assessment and Accountability Office Hours

- Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at 1:00 p.m.
- Webinar link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/assessment-accountability/>
- Phone Number: 1-646-307-1380; Participant PIN code: 89147656

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. 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 or call (504) 304-5467.

Tuition Donation Program News

New: LEAP 2025 and LEAP 360 Algebra I and Geometry Graphing Calculator

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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
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ACE Scholarships Louisiana	Statewide	www.acescholarships.org	TDR@acescholarships.org	504-491-1813
Arete Scholars Louisiana	Statewide	www.aretescholars.org	maryhw@aretescholars.org	225-245-3610
New Schools for Baton Rouge Excellence Scholarship Fund	Baton Rouge	newschoolsbr.org/our-approach/excellence-scholarship-fund	esf@newschoolsbr.org	225-395-1686

School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities (SCP)

New: School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities Application Available

The application for the School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities is now available [here](#). Please upload completed applications and supporting documentation for new applicants to your school's FTP account in the 2018-19 SCP folder. Please place all continuing student applications and new student applications plus supporting documentation in their appropriate folders. **Each application and supporting documentation should be uploaded as one file labeled with the child's first initial and last name.** Please do not email applications as they contain student level information that should not be communicated electronically. Additionally, mailed applications will not be accepted. **All applications must be uploaded to the FTP.** Please see instructions for accessing the FTP [here](#).

Applications will be accepted until **Friday, March 16th**. For more information, please see the SCP FAQ form or contact nonpublicschools@la.gov.

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.

All Nonpublics

New: National School Counseling Week

Please share this information with school principals and counselors.

[National School Counseling Week](#) is right around the corner! From February 5-9, schools across the country will be recognizing the role of professional school counselors. The Department will be sharing ideas and resources to let our Louisiana professional school counselors know how much we appreciate the valuable work they do to ensure the success of their students. Please follow the Department on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) for the latest information, and share your own posts to show us how you celebrate!

Please email leslie.gilliland@la.gov for more information.

Reminder: 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 with questions.

Reminder: 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. 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.

Other Department Newsletters

To view the **January 30th District Newsletter** or the **January 25th 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.

LDOE Contacts

[John White](#)

State Superintendent of Education

877.453.2721 (toll-free)

Twitter @LouisianaSupe

LDOE Links

[LDOE Website](#)

[Contact Us](#)

STAY CONNECTED

