

NONPUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE NEWS

A Publication for Participating Nonpublic Choice Schools



February 15, 2018

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Important Dates for Nonpublic School Choice Programs

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
LSP	2/19/18	Complete Scholarship school survey	Superintendents, School leaders, Scholarship contacts
LSP, Tuition Donation	2/20/18	Attend Nonpublic Testing Coordinator call	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
LSP	2/23/18	Submit budget form and allocation spreadsheets	School leaders
Tuition Donation	2/28/18	Submit Q3 enrollment	STO's
SCP	3/16/18	Upload SCP applications to FTP	School leaders or School Choice contacts
Tuition Donation and all non-Scholarship nonpublics participating in testing	4/13/18	Submit Nonpublic Assessment Participation Forms	District test coordinators

New: Scholarship School Mid-Year Survey due February 19th

All school leaders, Scholarship contacts, and Superintendents received an email on February 2nd with a link to the annual Scholarship School Mid-Year Survey. This survey is intended to provide principals, Scholarship contacts, and Superintendents with an opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions in order to continue to strengthen the Department of Education.

Surveys should be submitted using the link in the original email by **February 19th**. If you need this link sent to you again, please reach out to studentscholarships@la.gov.

New: Counselor Collaborations Start This Week

Please share with school counselors.

The Counselor Collaborations kick off this week. Topics include:

- Assessment Checklists
- Graduation Cohorts
- Individual Graduation Plans
- March2Success
- Financial Aid Planning
- Dual Enrollment and AP Physics Policy
- Direct Student Services

School systems can still register in [Wisdomwhere](#) for an event nearest you.

Email stephanie.marcum@la.gov for more information.

Reminder: Nonpublic Testing Coordinator Call

The Monthly Nonpublic Testing Coordinator Call will take place **Tuesday, February 20th at 2:00**. Testing coordinators should attend as important information regarding upcoming assessments will be discussed.

To join the call:

Webinar link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/assessment-accountability/>

Toll access number (Toll): 1-646-307-1380

Toll free access number (Toll Free): 1-855-240-2575

Participant pin code: 89147656

If you have any questions, please reach out to assessment@la.gov.

Reminder: Budget to Actual - Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program (SSEEP) Expenditures

In October 2017, participating SSEEP schools sent in a proposed budget to LDE showing how their school anticipated using SSEEP funds. The completed [budget form and allocation spreadsheet](#) showing actual SSEEP expenditures through **January 31, 2018** are due by **February 23, 2018**.

Submit your [budget form and allocation spreadsheet](#) (if applicable) via e-mail to staudit@la.gov.

Please note that a revised allocation spreadsheet and budget can be found [here](#).

Should you have any questions, you may contact Jameka Henderson at Jameka.Henderson@la.gov or Satoiya Jones at Satoiya.Jones@la.gov or 225.342.4989.

Reminder: New American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Requirements:

Effective SY 2017-2018, all participating scholarship schools are required to sign an attestation letter prior to the 4th quarter payment being released. This attestation letter indicate that each participating schools has provided the audit firm and the Louisiana Department of Education with correct information that pertains to the audit and are in compliance with the state laws and regulations governing the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program (SSEEP).

For additional information on this requirement, please click [here](#).

Should you have any questions, you may contact Jameka.Henderson@la.gov.

Reminder: Date Change for March Supervisor Collaborations

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Supervisor Collaboration originally scheduled on March 15 in Jefferson, will now be held on March 23 in Baton Rouge at the Claiborne Building. This change is reflected in the [School System Support Calendar](#).

Email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: February Superintendents' Call

Superintendents are invited to participate in the Superintendents' Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White on February 20, at 10:30 a.m. You can begin dialing into the call 15 minutes in advance. Please follow the instructions below:

To join the Superintendents' February 20, 2018 Meeting:

- Go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/suptscall/>
- Dial into the Phone Bridge: 877-475-0109
- When prompted, please give the Meeting ID #8467938
- You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting.

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

- All changes to DTC or accountability staff must be submitted to LDOE using the [DTC and Accountability Contact Update](#) form found in the Assessment Library.

LEAP 2025

- Test Administrator and Coordinator Manuals for LEAP 2025 are posted in eDIRECT.

LEAP 360

- LEAP 360 Grades 3-8 Interim Assessment Form 2 for ELA is currently available for testing. Answer keys are available in [eDirect](#). Under All Applications, select General Information and then Documents. Under Administration select Interim 2017-2018. To see the Answer Keys, you will select Answer Keys/Scoring.

English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT)

- The ELPT assessment window is February 5 - March 16.
- The additional material window is open and orders can be placed through [TIDE](#).
- The ELPT [Data Entry Interface Guide](#) (DEI) is posted in the [ELPT portal](#). The DEI is a component of the Online Testing System that allows authorized users to enter student assessment data, such as item responses and scores. Entering student data is required for the ELPT large print and Braille forms.
- Louisiana and AIR are now supporting Mac OS X 10.13 for ELPT testing. A Secure Browser for use with Mac computers running OS X 10.13 is now available for download on the [Secure Browser](#) page of the portal.

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](#).

ACT

- DTCs are required to make changes to any school test coordinators in the district in PANext. Refer to the [PANext User Guide](#).
- **Feb. 5-March 14:** Add students and update student information in PearsonAccess^{next} and place additional orders for initial ACT test materials
- **Feb 5-March 16:** Request ACT-approved accommodations on the ACT for eligible examinees through TAA using the ACT-Approved Late Consideration Form
- **Feb. 16:** Deadline to [Request Reconsideration](#) of ACT-approved accommodations on the ACT in TAA

WorkKeys

- **Feb. 5-March 14:** Order additional WorkKeys accommodations materials

Assessment Administration Support and Training

- The Assessment and Accountability Monthly call will be held on **February 20, at 1:00 p.m.**
- To join the webinar
 - go to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/assessment-accountability/> or
 - call: 1-646-307-1380 and enter participant PIN code: 89147656.

Email 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. 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: Counselor Collaborations Start This Week

Please share with school counselors.

The Counselor Collaborations kick off this week. Topics include:

- Assessment Checklists
- Graduation Cohorts
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Email stephanie.marcum@la.gov for more information.

Reminder: Nonpublic Testing Coordinator Call

The Monthly Nonpublic Testing Coordinator Call will take place **Tuesday, February 20th at 2:00**. Testing coordinators of Tuition Donation schools and representatives from School Tuition Organizations should attend as important information regarding upcoming assessments will be discussed.

To join the call:

Webinar link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/assessment-accountability/>

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Reminder: Q3 count due 2/28

All STO's must upload the Q3 enrollment spreadsheets to the FTP by **2/28**. The report should also include all students' LASIDs.

This spreadsheet is to be completed by the Student Tuition Organizations, not individual schools.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Lindsey Bush at lindsey.bush@la.gov.

Reminder: Assessment Participation Forms Due April 13th

Tuition Donation schools must complete the [participation form for statewide assessment](#) by **April 13th** and email to LAHelpDesk@datarecognitioncorp.com. STOs should work with partner schools to make sure that all participation forms are completed.

Reminder: 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

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If you believe you have any students who are eligible for these alternate assessments, please reach out to assessment@la.gov.

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Email 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	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)

Reminder: School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities Applications Due 3/16

The application for the School Choice Program for Students with Exceptionalities is 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 comprehensive 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: 2018-2019 Dual Enrollment Policy Update

Please share with high school supervisors, principals, and counselors.

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. [Alternative minimum scores](#) are offered for college-level enrollment and have been amended to include ACCUPLACER in addition to those instruments previously identified.

In lieu of the process listed above, a college or university may propose its own alternate placement system, but such a system must be validated on the principle that students shall meet, at a minimum, the same level of academic achievement as would have been defined by equivalent scores on the ACT.

For additional information please contact highschoolacademics@la.gov.

New: Advanced Placement Data and Resources Webinar

Please share with new and experienced Advanced Placement teachers.

The Advanced Placement (AP®) program provides students with an opportunity to earn college credit at thousands of universities nationwide for a fraction of the cost of a college course.

To support AP teachers in administration of these courses, both new and experienced teachers are encouraged to [participate](#) in a webinar on February 27, from 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. This College Board led webinar will explore state and national updates related to the AP program, a review of the AP Instructional Planning Report, and an overview of best practices in exam preparation.

To join the webinar:

- enter [the meeting room](#);
- provide the meeting access code: 637 378 847; and
- provide the password: BuZJbN4x.

For additional information please contact highschoolacademics@la.gov.

Reminder: Nonpublic Schools Standardized Testing Participation Form

Nonpublic schools wishing to participate in statewide assessments must complete the [participation form for statewide assessment](#) by April 13th and email it to LAHelpDesk@datarecognitioncorp.com. The cost of the assessment is \$50/subject.

Reminder: Training for the New Child Care Civil Background Check System Webinar

Schools with licensed early learning centers and those offering services to early learning centers are invited to attend the upcoming Child Care Civil Background Check System webinars on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. and Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. These webinars will include the same information on how to login, set up an account, apply for a background check, monitor background checks, get results, and check eligibility. Please keep in mind, the background check changes will go into effect March 1, 2018.

- To join the webinar: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/earlychildhood/>
- Dial: 1-855-240-2575

For more information about Child Care CBCs, please email valerie.black@la.gov.

Reminder: January 2018 BESE Meeting Summary

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met on January 24 and approved a number of bulletin revisions and recommendations. Please see the [January 2018 BESE Summary](#) for the approvals that directly impact the activities of local school systems.

Email ryan.n.gremillion@la.gov with questions.

Other Department Newsletters

To view the **February 14th District Newsletter** or the **February 8th 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](#)

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