

NONPUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE NEWS

A Publication for Participating Nonpublic Choice Schools



August 5, 2016

In This Issue:

Key Highlights: Important Dates for Nonpublic School Choice Programs

Louisiana Scholarship Program News

Assessment News (LSP & TDR)

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

Other Department Resources for Nonpublic Choice Schools

Tuition Donation Rebate Program (TDR) News

Home Study

Other Department Newsletters

Key Highlights: Important Dates for School Choice Programs

Key Info New to the Newsletter:

Section	Key New Info
LSP News	Complete and return Tuition & Fees Submissions by Monday, August 8
LSP News	Complete and return Student Registration Workbooks by Friday, August 12
Assessment News	Translated Parent Guides available for principals, teachers, and parents

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

Completing and Returning Tuition & Fees Submissions

On Tuesday, August 2, all Scholarship managers received the 2016-2017 Tuition and Fees worksheet. All schools have been asked to enter tuition and fees for all grades your school serves into the worksheet, even if you do not have Scholarship students enrolled in that grade. When returning the updated worksheet with 2016-2017 tuition information, please include supporting documentation (such as a tuition and fee schedule) that matches all tuition and fees listed on the worksheet.

Please complete and return the tuition and fees workbook to StudentScholarships@la.gov by Monday, August 8. The Department

Please complete the return information and the workbooks to assessment@la.gov by Monday, August 8. Pages of the Department will review your tuition and fee information, follow up with questions if needed, and provide a final certification document for your signature by August 15.

Completing and Returning Student Registration Workbooks

Student registration workbooks for new and continuing students and directions for completing the workbooks will be sent to all Scholarship managers today, Friday, August 5. These workbooks should be completed and returned to StudentScholarships@la.gov by Friday, August 12.

The Department will use the information in these workbooks to determine if we are able to make waitlist offers, so it is critical that all schools return these workbooks in a timely manner.

Assessment News (LSP & TDR)

Unless otherwise noted, the following information applies to schools participating in both the Louisiana Scholarship Program and Tuition Donation Rebate Program.

Release of 2016 LEAP Results

The Department released Spring 2016 LEAP ELA and math assessment results in [eDirect](#) on Friday, July 29. Located within eDirect are student reports, school rosters, and CSV files. The Department released state, LEA, and school-level summary reports in eDirect on August 3, and publicly on August 4.

The Department has also released the following resources to support teachers' and parents' understanding of these results.

- [Parent Guide to the LEAP Student Reports](#): helps parents read and interpret the LEAP student reports, with accompanying online resources.
- [Parent Conversation Guide for Teachers](#): guiding questions for teachers to prepare for parent conferences regarding LEAP results.
- [Back-to-School Night Presentation](#): customizable presentation that schools can use to provide parents with information on 2016-2017 academic goals, standards and instruction, and understanding student LEAP results.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

Assessment Data Certification

Annually, school systems have the opportunity to certify and make changes to assessment data to ensure its accuracy prior to the calculation of Scholarship Cohort index (SCI). To facilitate this process, LA Data Review will open in early August for accountability contacts to review and request changes to student scores in the system, prior to SCI being released.

Accountability contacts should have received an email with user ID/password information and user guides last week. **Updates or changes to accountability contact information must be submitted to assessment@la.gov to assure the email notification is sent to the appropriate contact for each LEA/school.**

- **K-8 progress points**: Assessment rosters will be available for accountability contacts to review in LA Data Review the week of August 16.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

Translated Parent Guides

Please share these resources with principals, teachers, and parents.

The Department translated the [Parent Guide to the LEAP Student Reports](#) and the [Parent Guide to the Louisiana Student Standards](#) in the following languages. All guides are located in the [Family Support Toolbox Library](#).

- French
- Spanish
- Vietnamese
- Simplified and Traditional Chinese

Email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities (SCP)

Educational Certificates are awarded contingent upon funding availability.

Student Transfers:

Families seeking to transfer their educational certificate should complete a transfer form with the receiving school. Please note that the submission of this form is not a guarantee that a transfer will be approved.

- Students must have been awarded an educational certificate for the 2016-2017 school year to qualify for a transfer.
- This form must be signed by the parent/guardian and a representative of the receiving transfer school.
- The receiving school should submit this form to the Louisiana Department of Education.

Please contact nonpublicschools@la.gov for a School Choice Program transfer form.

Other Department Resources for Nonpublic Choice Schools

Non-Public School Registration Deadline for ACT Testing for 2016-2017

Non-public schools will have two test dates for Spring 2017, and will contract directly with ACT for non-scholarship students.

Any non-public schools that plan to test non-scholarship students on the ACT assessment in February or March (paper) and February - March (online) must register and submit their contract to ACT by August 26. If a non-public school plans to test non-scholarship students on the ACT assessment in April or May (paper) and April - May (online), they must register and submit their contract to ACT by October 28.

	Registration Deadline	Initial Test Date (Paper)	Make-up Test Date (Paper)	Online Testing Window
Spring 2017*	August 26, 2016	February 28, 2017	March 21, 2017	February 28, 2017- March 14, 2017
	October 28, 2016	April 19, 2017	May 3, 2017	April 19, 2017- May 3, 2017

All non-public schools with scholarship students will administer the ACT to only the scholarship students on March 21 (initial test date) or May 3 (make-up test date).

Back-to-School Resources Released

The Department is committed to providing educators at each level of the education system - teachers, principals, and LEAs - with the [supports and resources](#) they need to continue raising the bar for students in Louisiana.

- The [2016-2017 Back-to-School Package](#) provides all educators with resources, tools, and support structures to support planning and instruction, goal-setting, assessments, and parent communications for the start of the 2016-2017 school year.
- The [Back-to-School Parent Night Presentation](#) is a customizable presentation that schools can use to provide parents with information on 2016-2017 academic goals, standards and instruction, and understanding student LEAP results.
- The [Parent Guide to the LEAP Student Reports](#) helps parents read and interpret the LEAP student reports, with accompanying online resources.
- The [Louisiana Student Standards Parent Guide](#) is an overview of what the Louisiana Student Standards are, how they were developed, and how they will impact student learning and assessments this school year.

Please email districtsupport@la.gov with any questions.

Tuition Donation Rebate Program (TDR) News

Information about the Tuition Donation Rebate 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 Rebate 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
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Home Study

Quarterly Home Study Reports

The Quarterly Home Study Report for July 2016 will be provided via FTP during the week of August 1 and will remain on the FTP until early September. A zipped file named "**LEACode_LEA_July2016QuarterlyHomeStudy**" will be available on the Data Management FTP site (with usernames ending in @datamgmt).

Within the zipped file, there will be the following:

- Cover letter
- Statewide enrollment numbers of BESE-Approved Home Study students
- Detailed list of students from your LEA enrolled Home Study program
- Each student's home study approval notification letter
- Statewide enrollment numbers of registered nonpublic schools and student enrollment
- Detailed list of registered schools and student enrollment from your LEA

Other Department Newsletters

Read the [August 2 District newsletter](#).

- Release of 2016 LEAP Results
- New Assessment Guides Released

Read the [July 28 Nonpublic School Choice newsletter](#).

LDOE Contacts

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LDOE Links

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