

NONPUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE NEWS

A Publication for Participating Nonpublic Choice Schools



September 9, 2016

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Key Highlights: Important Dates for School Choice Programs

Key Info New to the Newsletter:

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline
LSP	9/9	Certification sheets due to StudentScholarships@LA.gov
LSP	9/9	Sign and return the Educational Purposes and Individual Enrichment Assurance Forms
LSP, SCP, TDR	9/9	Complete data certification in the Louisiana Accountability Data Review system
LSP, SCP, TDR	9/9	Registration deadline for upcoming Supervisor's Collaboratives
LSP, SCP	9/19 - 9/21	Quarter 1 count date for LSP, SCP
TDR	9/30/9/30	Quarter 1 count date for TDR

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

2015-2016 Tuition and Fees Approval

This past Tuesday, the Scholarship Team will send approved tuition and fee certification sheets to all schools.

- If the approved tuition and fees are correct, please sign, scan, and email the certification sheet back to StudentScholarships@la.gov by **Friday, September 9**.
- If you wish to make any changes to the proposed tuition and fees amounts or believe there is a mistake, please email StudentScholarships@la.gov.

The certification sheets should be signed and returned by **Friday, September 9**.

Assurance Forms Due Today, September 9

School leaders and Scholarship contacts received an email on Tuesday, September 6 that included your school's tuition and fees certification sheet for the 2016-17 school year, as well as the [Educational Purposes Assurance Form](#) and [Individual Enrichment Assurances Form](#).

Please review this email and send signed copies of these three documents by **today, September 9**.

Nonpublic School BESE-Approval Process

The nonpublic school [2017-2018 BESE Approval Process Guidelines](#) are now available. The deadline for schools to submit their materials to the FTP portal is **October 1, 2016**. Schools that are seeking BESE approval for the first time should contact nonpublicschools@la.gov in order to receive account information for the FTP portal. Schools that have BESE approval for the 2016-2017 school year will continue to use their current FTP log-in information.

Additionally, schools that wish to participate in the Louisiana Scholarship Program should complete the Notice of Intent that will be available on the [Louisiana Scholarship Program page](#) between **September 12, 2016 and October 1, 2016**.

Closing out 2015-16 Education Excellence Fund Applications

A final June 30 Periodic Expense Report (PER) is needed to close out all FY 15-16 EEF (Education Excellence Fund) Applications.

Please submit your PER as soon as possible, as 16-17 EEF Application cannot be opened in eGMS until FY 15-16 has been closed out.

If you have any questions please contact Tameca Jeanpierre at 225-342-3836 or Kenya Jenkins at 225-342-3342.

Accommodating Students Displaced by Recent Flooding

Many Scholarship families have been displaced due to the recent flooding across Louisiana. As a result, these students may need to transfer their award to a different school. The Department is requesting that all Scholarship schools do their best to accommodate these families, even in instances where doing so may exceed your current enrollment cap.

If you have questions or concerns about enrolling families who have been displaced, please reach out to StudentScholarships@LA.gov.

New Transfer Form

The Department of Education has made small changes to the [2016- 2017 Transfer Form](#) to track and accommodate the needs of displaced families.

Please use [this form](#) for all transfers that happen throughout the rest of the 2016-17 school year.

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Update to the Scholarship and School Choice Quarter 1 Count Date

Due to the number of displaced students, the Quarter 1 count date for the Louisiana Scholarship Program and the School Choice Program has been postponed from the old count date of September 7-9 to the **new count date of September 19-21**. Postponing this date will give schools more time to connect with families and solidify rosters for the 2016-17 school year.

If you have questions, please reach out to StudentScholarships@LA.gov.

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

School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities (SCP)

Maximum Per Pupil Amounts by Parish

Awards for the School Choice Program are worth either 50% of the state per-pupil allocation of funds to the student's local school district, or the school's tuition and fees, whichever is less. The 2016-17 per pupil state MFP amounts have been released by the Department. Schools wishing to view the maximum reimbursement amount for the School Choice Program by Parish can review [this spreadsheet](#).

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 2016-17 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

Data Certification Window Closes Today, September 9

Your testing coordinator should have received at least two emails related to data certification for your school. Data certification closes today, 9/9, so immediate action may be required.

The Louisiana Data Review System is open to accountability contacts for the purpose of updating data used to calculate the 2016 Scholarship Cohort Index. The system, [Louisiana Accountability Data Review](#), can be accessed now.

When the system closes, there will be no additional opportunities to make changes to accountability data. Any errors that are not corrected by the deadlines shall not be used as grounds for an appeal or waiver request regardless of the source of any errors (See Bulletin 111, Section 3107).

As always, accountability staff members are prepared to help you navigate the system or address any policy or data concerns.

Please email assessment@la.gov for additional assistance.

Your user name is below and your password will be sent to you in a separate email.

Register by Friday 9/9 for the September Supervisor and Teacher Leader Collaborations

The September Supervisor and Teacher Leader Collaborations will take place in the following locations:

- **September 14: Bossier** (Bossier Parish School for Technology & Innovative Learning)
- **September 19: Baton Rouge** (Claiborne Building)
- **September 20: Jefferson** (Jefferson Parish School Board Office)
- **October 3: Baton Rouge** (Claiborne Building)

Sessions at the [Supervisor Collaborations](#) will provide **district level supervisors** with important information related to assessment and accountability, curriculum and instruction, special education, data systems, and early childhood. **Click [here](#) for more information about the Supervisor Collaborations including session descriptions and how to register.**

Sessions at the [Teacher Leader Collaborations](#) will provide **classroom teachers** with a variety of instructional strategies and tools for ELA, math, and social studies, including but not limited to preparing for 2016-2017 assessments, and using data from 2015-2016 to inform instruction. **Please share this [overview document](#) with your Teacher Leaders and encourage them to register.**

Each meeting has a limited number of spots, which will be filled on a first come, first served basis. **Registration for both events closes September 9.**

Email louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Testing Coordinator Reminders

This section provides schools with reminders and updates on information related to testing.

Resources:

- **[Updated 2016-2017 Assessment Month by Month Checklist:](#)** Updates include AP and CLEP dates
- **Weekly Office Hours:** Held each **Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. beginning Tuesday, September 13**
 - Office Hours Webinar Link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dpc/>
 - Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
 - Call-In Information: (800) 832-0736; meeting room #3423625

Training and Support:

- **New DTC Training** will be held at the September Collaborative as a Supervisor session. All new testing coordinators should attend this training.

Assessments:

- **Update Technology fall 2016 Device requirements:** The [Fall 2016 Technology Device Requirements](#) have been updated. Sites that tested online using DRC INSIGHT in 2015-2016 with satisfactory results should be able to use the same testing devices in the 2016-2017 school year.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

Other Department Newsletters

Read the [September 6 District Newsletter](#).

- September Supervisor and Teacher Leader Collaborations
- Testing Coordinator Reminders

Read the [September 2 Nonpublic School Choice Newsletter](#).

LDOE Contacts

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LDOE Links

[LDOE Website](#)
[Contact Us](#)

