

NONPUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE NEWS

A Publication for Participating Nonpublic Choice Schools



November 23, 2016

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Important Dates for School Choice Programs

School Choice Program	Date	Action, Event, or Deadline	Owners
All Nonpublics	11/30/2016	Submit nominees for Presidential Scholars	School/Archdiocese leaders
LSP	12/05/2016	Complete Technology Readiness Tool	Testing Coordinators
LSP	12/05/2016	Complete Quarter 2 enrollment in LEADs	Scholarship program managers
LSP	12/16/2016	Submit ACT Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	High school testing coordinators

Louisiana Scholarship Program (LSP) News

EOC LASID Rosters

All Scholarship schools who administered Winter EOCs in 2015-16 should have received a LASID roster earlier this week. If your school is administering Winter EOCs for the first time this year and you did not receive a LASID roster, please contact

Technology Readiness

Please share with District Test and Technology Coordinators.

The Department will host a call on Wednesday, November 30, 2016 at 12:00 for Scholarship schools that require assistance completing the Technology Readiness Tool (TRT).

- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/trttutorial/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name
- Call-in Information: (605) 475-4000, Meeting room 321884#

Please contact studentscholarships@la.gov with any questions.

All schools must complete the Tech Readiness Toolkit by Monday, December 5th.

Quarter 2 Enrollment Verification 12/1 to 12/5

The Quarter 2 enrollment verification process for the Louisiana Scholarship Program will take place from December 1st through December 5th. Please be prepared to complete the enrollment verification process on time to ensure prompt payment for the second quarter.

Please contact StudentScholarships@LA.gov with any questions.

New LSP Transfer Form

The Department 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.

Tuition Donation Rebate Program (TDR) News

Frequently Asked Questions and Contact Information

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)

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 2016-17 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

District Test Coordinator Reminders

Assessment Administration Support and Training:

Office Hours Tuesday, November 29, 2016 at 1:00 PM

Login Information: (*No pre-registration required)

- **Meeting Name:** Question and Answer Session
- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dtc/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
- Audio access via phone bridge: 646-307-1380; meeting room #951155484
- Select the "listen only mode" if joining the meeting via computer or smartphone.

Assessment Administration:

- **EOC Window:** November 28 - December 16, 2017
- **2016-2017 ACT Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and supporting documents:** due **December 16, 2016** for all public, charter, and scholarship schools (scholarship students only); documents are located in the [Assessment Library](#) under ACT Documents; contact Trish Gilbert at patricia.gilbert@la.gov with any questions.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Financial Aid

The LDOE has a [Regional Financial Aid Calendar of Events](#) to inform students, parents, and schools/districts of upcoming financial aid events in the area. The calendar, along with other helpful financial aid resources, can be accessed at the Department's [Financial Aid web page](#).

The calendar is updated weekly. Schools/districts and institutions can submit financial aid-related events to be published on the web calendar. Please send the event name, date, time, location, and a brief description to stephanie.marcum@la.gov.

Other

Contest for Grade 6-12 STEM Teachers

Samsung's Corporate Citizenship team is sponsoring the STEM-focused [Solve for Tomorrow Contest](#). One middle or high school teacher is selected to receive \$25,000, and those who move to the next level can win up to \$150,000. The deadline to enter is **November 30, 2016**. Please visit the [contest web page](#) for more information.

2017 Students of the Year Program

Each year, the Department recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of our students through the Louisiana Students of the Year Awards Program.

The Department released the application for the **2017 Students of the Year** program and strongly encourages all LEAs to play an active role in celebrating the exceptional students in your area. To participate, please review the revised [guidelines](#) for the program and current [logistics memo](#).

To ensure your LEA is represented, please complete the following steps:

1. Complete the [District/LEA Information Form](#) and email it to [Marian Johnson](mailto:Marian.Johnson) by **December 9, 2016**. This information will enable the Department to determine the regional sites and to communicate directly with coordinators on upcoming events and activities related to this program.
2. Make the [logistics memo](#) available to the parents of students eligible to participate in the program.

All LEAs are encouraged to visit the [LDOE Awards Programs](#) web page for more information about the Students of the Year Awards. If you have any questions, please email marian.johnson@la.gov or call 225-219-7372.

U.S. Presidential Scholars Program: Invitation to Nominate Students Extended

The U.S. Department of Education has invited school/diocese leaders to nominate outstanding students for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. This year, states are allowed to submit nominations for up to 25 outstanding students who would otherwise not qualify under the program's traditional academic (based on ACT/SAT scores) or arts component. Nominations may also include students who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in career and technical education.

State Superintendent White invites school or archdiocese leaders to submit nominations for up to three outstanding students. The

nominations must include a male and female student, and at least one nomination should be for a student who has been successful in career and technical education. Students should be high school seniors scheduled to graduate or receive a diploma between January and June 2017. Please see [additional program requirements](#) for more information.

Nominations should be submitted through a single nomination letter for all nominees (not to exceed three pages total) signed by the local superintendent and emailed to leslie.hill@la.gov no later than **Wednesday, November 30, at 4:30 p.m.** Please note "Presidential Scholars" in the subject line.

Federal Policy on Military Recruiting in Schools

Representatives of military recruiting offices have recently contacted the Department to express concerns regarding access to student contact information. **By Federal law, all schools that receive funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) must provide student's names, addresses, and telephone listings to military recruiters unless the student's parents or guardians have individually opted out of providing this information.** Local education authorities cannot adopt a blanket opt-out policy.

In addition, please be mindful that schools are to allow recruiters from the various branches of service equitable access to classrooms and/or facilities. **Schools must allow equal access and accommodation to all branches of services in accordance with a consistent application of their local policies.** Students interested in joining the military after high school should be allowed to receive information from all branches of service so they can make an intelligent decision if they are considering joining the military.

Please share this information with the principals and counselors in your high schools to ensure your district is in compliance with federal law.

Department Newsletters

To view the **November 22 District Newsletter**, please [visit the LDOE Newsroom](#).

To view the **November 17 Nonpublic School Choice Newsletter**, please click [here](#).

LDOE Contacts

[John White](#)

State Superintendent of Education

877.453.2721 (toll-free)

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LDOE Links

[LDOE Website](#)

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