

Dana Dauzat

From: Dana Dauzat
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2015 3:23 PM
To: Dana Dauzat
Subject: Important News for School Districts

From: John White [mailto:ladepteduc@la.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 5:32 PM
To: Dana Dauzat
Subject: Important News for School Districts

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



July 14, 2015

Superintendents' Message

Dear Colleagues,

Nearly four years ago, Louisiana redefined its high school accountability plan. The new plan shifted our state away from objectives focused simply on high school course completion, toward college and workplace readiness goals. Rather than accept high school completion as an objective unto itself, our state embraced the idea of readiness for the next stage of education.

Subsequently, we became the fastest growing state in the nation on [Advanced Placement courses and examinations](#). Dual enrollment college courses expanded with the introduction of the [Supplemental Course Allocation](#). This year [CLEP](#) and [WorkKeys](#) have been added to validate college and career readiness.

Not surprisingly, [high school graduation rates are up](#). [College matriculation](#) is up as well. The plan has worked.

Perhaps the most significant shift from that time was providing every high school student, no matter family income, a chance to take the ACT. In the time since, Louisiana educators have raised learning expectations for students, fostering independent thinking across subject areas. As a result, thousands more students have achieved college-going ACT scores.

This week you will receive and communicate ACT results for the class of 2015 in your school system. Later this week, the

Department of Education will do the same for the entire state. Once again, we will tell a story of great progress together.

None of this has been easy. It has involved some disagreement, as well as a willingness to change, on all levels of our system. But the rewards, for thousands of young people, have been great.

As always, thank you for all you do for our children,

John

John White
Louisiana Department of Education
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District Support

Louisiana Student Standards Review Portal Open for Feedback

The Department has launched the [Louisiana Student Standards Review Portal](#) providing parents, educators, and all other stakeholders the opportunity to provide input on Louisiana's Student Standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics, as part of the [2015-2016 Louisiana Student Standards review process](#).

The **2015-2016 Louisiana Student Standards review process** includes two phases:

1. An online review that allows the public to review the current ELA and math standards and submit comments via the [Standards Review Portal](#).
2. A professional review process by committees of Louisiana educators, content experts, postsecondary education leaders, business and industry leaders, and parents that will meet from August 2015 through February 2016. For specific meeting locations and times, click [here](#).

All feedback received during the public comment period will be posted online and shared with the Standards Review Committees to inform their work. **To ensure your feedback is included in the report for the first standards review committee meeting, please submit your comments by August 5.** All comments submitted after the first meeting will be shared in each subsequent committee meeting.

Please contact louisianastandards@la.gov with any questions.

District Point-of-Contact Survey

In preparation for the 2015-2016 Supervisor Collaborations, the Department is asking each district to complete this [survey](#) identifying key points of contact in their central office in order to effectively structure and maximize participation in these quarterly meetings this year.

Please email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

2015-2016 District Support Calendar Update

The Department has released an update to the [2015-2016 District Support Calendar](#). All new additions or revisions are highlighted in yellow so that districts can easily identify these changes.

High School Opportunities

Course Choice/SCA School Level Information

Course Choice funded through the Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA) will provide students and schools with access to a broad variety of course offerings from online, face-to-face, industry training, and dual enrollment course providers. These course offerings will enable schools to provide courses not currently available to their students, including:

- Career and technical preparation, supporting the Jump Start program
- Academic work required to achieve TOPS
- Advanced coursework not available at the school due to limited resources
- Dual Enrollment
- Intensive remediation for students struggling to stay on pace for graduation

The registration process will open in early July. Each high school should have an account on the system to approve registrations.

If you are unsure of the user account for your school please send an e-mail to SCA@la.gov requesting account information. Please include your school name and school district in the body of the message.

Course Choice/SCA Registration System: <http://lacourses.net/>

Weekly Course Choice Webinars will be held each Monday to provide school counselors with an overview of the registration system.

- **July 20, 2015: 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
- **August 3, 2015: 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Web Conference Link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/r3q1d9pfl1q/>

To connect by telephone only (no computer): 1.800.832.0736 Access code 1053465

Supplemental Course Allocation Dual Enrollment Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA)

Districts and Charter schools can voluntarily choose to execute a cooperative endeavor agreement (CEA) for the purpose of utilizing the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) Grant Award System to pay participating postsecondary institutions for student dual enrollment course tuition. This CEA is intended to streamline the payment process for LDOE's Course Choice postsecondary dual enrollment course offerings funded through Supplemental Course Allocation.

Execution of the CEA is voluntary and has absolutely no implications on SCA funding.

The deadline to submit the CEA for 2015-16 is **August 21, 2015**.

Please email any questions you may have about the CEA to SCA@la.gov.

Assessment & Accountability

2015-2016 Assessment Planning Meeting

Please forward to District Test Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

District test coordinators and accountability contacts are invited to attend the **2015-2016 Assessment Planning Meeting** to discuss assessment and accountability, test security, and transition to the Louisiana Secure ID system for the 2015-2016 school year.

Each meeting will take place from **8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at one of the following locations:

- **Thursday, July 16** at the Jefferson Parish School Board in Harvey
- **Monday, July 20** at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge
- **Tuesday, July 21** at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge
- **Thursday, July 23** at the Family Life Center in Jena

Participants may register through [Coursewhere](#).

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

ACT Assessment Results

The Department has released district- and school-level ACT results to districts via the FTP. These files will be available on the FTP from July 13, 2015 to August 13, 2015.

Superintendents will receive state-level ACT results tomorrow, July 15, 2015. We ask that **districts do not share this data with the public until 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 16** when the Department will hold its ACT press conference at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge.

Please email assessments@la.gov with questions.

Compass End-of-Year Deadlines

Attention Compass Contacts and Principals:

All Compass data for the 2014-2015 school year must be entered into the [Compass Information System \(CIS\)](#) by **Friday, July 31**.

To assist schools and districts with the Compass close out process, the Department developed the [Compass 2014-2015 Guide to End-of-Year Processes](#) document that guides each user (teacher, school administrator, and district staff) through the steps needed to complete the Compass process. Listed below are direct supports available to assist educators.

Grant Opportunities

High Cost Services Grant- Deadline Extension

Due to system outages at the Louisiana Department of Education, the High Cost Services Grant application deadline has been extended to July 17, 2015. Please ensure all applications are complete and submitted through eGMS by this date.

Finance

2014 Legislative Session Appropriation

Act 55 of the 2014 Louisiana Legislative Session provided an allocation of funds for payments of \$35,065 to each city, parish and local public school system, the Recovery School District, Special School District, LSU Lab School, Southern Lab School, Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts, New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts, Louisiana Schools for the Deaf and Visually Impaired, and the Louisiana Special Education Center.

The first payment of \$25,661 was released in August 2014 and the second payment of \$7,741.36 was released in June 2015. The final payment of \$1,662.62 will be processed on July 17. Click [here](#) for a spreadsheet with details of the payment. There are no specified expenditure requirements attached to these funds.

If you have any questions, you may contact Charlotte Stevens at charlotte.stevens@la.gov.

FY2015-16 HB1 Appropriation of \$2.6 Million for Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA)

\$2.6 million was provided to public schools during the 2015 Regular Session to support Dual Enrollment and Course Choice. With this allocation, the total available for these activities increases to \$10.4 million from all sources, \$7.8 million in the MFP formula and \$2.6 million in State funds. The total allocation amount for each LEA is available [here](#) on the Department's website. Please reference FY2015-16 HB1 Appropriations.

FY2015-16 HB1 Appropriation of \$36.2 Million for Pay Raise Continuation

A total of \$36.2 million, roughly equivalent to a 1.375% increase in the MFP Base Per Pupil Amount, was provided to public schools during the 2015 Regular Session to sustain the Certificated Pay Raises provided in FY2013-14. Details regarding the total allocation and payment amounts for each LEA are provided [here](#) on the Department's website. Please reference FY2015-16 HB1 Appropriations.

IDEA Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Fiscal Requirements

Please forward to Business Managers and Financial Officials of Public School Districts, Charter Schools, Lab Schools, and Other Entities and State Agencies defined as an LEA for these purposes.

Meeting the yearly MOE fiscal requirements is part of the business process to obligate and determine eligibility of FY 2016 federal grant funds and to confirm compliance with FY 2014 federal grant funds. There are two measurements annually:

1. IDEA MOE Confirmation
2. IDEA MOE Verification

(Click [here](#) for quick guidance on submitting these applications)

New Application Available for IDEA MOE Verification

The USDE requires an annual eligibility review to determine if each LEA is budgeting expenditures in the current grant year to meet the compliance requirement for MOE. This measurement is taken through eGMS and the annual IDEA MOE Verification Application is now available. The deadline for submission of the IDEA MOE Verification is **August 31, 2015**.

As a reminder, the IDEA MOE Confirmation for FY 2014 that is due no later than July 31, 2015 must be complete and marked FINAL before eGMS will allow access to the IDEA MOE Verification for FY 2016.

If you have questions regarding the MOE requirement or the review process, contact Nakia Jasonat Nakia.Jason@la.gov or 1-877-453-2721. For technical inquiries or support contact Jason Berard at Jason.Berard@la.gov.

Data

Data Files Available on FTP

Please forward to all data coordinators.

Week of July 13

- **2014-2015 ACT Results:** "LEACode_LEAName_2015_ACT12GradeBestScoreResults" are available on the FTP site from July 13, 2015 until August 13, 2015. Please supply these files to Accountability Contacts and District Test Coordinators.
- **FY2015-16 RSD Orleans Allocations:** "LEA Code_LEA_RSD Orleans Allocation", are available on the FTP site from July 14, 2015 until August 21, 2015. Please supply these files to the Business and Financial Managers. (This is only applicable to RSD Orleans Schools only.)
- **FY2015-16 MFP Allocations:** In accordance with R.S. 17:1394 (Act 837 of 2014), personally identifiable information or information that makes a student's identity easily traceable is not shared publicly. Business Managers should contact their Data Coordinators for detailed MFP calculations available July 14, 2015 through August 21, 2015 on the district's FTP. File name is "LEA Code_LEA_MFP Allocation". (This is only applicable to Type 2 Charter Schools, LSMSA, NOCCA and OJJ.)
- **FY2015-2016 Audit Assurances and Class Size Reports:** The Audit Assurances packet is now available on INSIGHT. Please note in schedule 6 of the packet that Class Size reports will be available on the FTP site beginning July 14, 2015 through December 2015. The file names are "LEACode_LEAName_2014_Class Size Site Level Report"

and "LEACode_LEAName_2014_Class Size for Auditors."

Please contact LDEData@la.gov with questions.

Policy

New Laws Enacted in the 2015 Legislative Session

The Governor has taken action on all legislation passed during the 2015 Legislative Session. Please click [here](#) to review a list of new laws and legislative resolutions related to elementary and secondary education. Please contact Erin Bendily at erin.bendily@la.gov or at (225) 342-3600 with any questions.

Nutrition Support

USDA Final Rule: Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs Personnel

As of July 1, 2015, the USDA Final Rule: Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs Personnel has gone into effect. This rule requires a minimum amount of annual training hours for all state directors of School Nutrition Programs (SNP), state director of distributing agencies, and, at the local level, all SNP directors, managers, and staff. Additionally, the rule specifies minimum hiring standards for *new* state directors of SNPs, state directors of distributing agencies that oversee USDA foods, and SNP directors. For more information on the USDA Professional Standards, click here <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/professional-standards>.

School Year 2015-16 Child Nutrition Program Administrative Review Schedule for School Districts & Charter Schools

As part of the Louisiana Department of Education's (LDOE) USDA Child Nutrition Program monitoring, we are announcing the Annual Administrative Review Schedule for SY 2015 - 16.

Click [here](#) for the Review Schedule.

Each district will be contacted by the Review designated the Department's Team Leader.

Education in the News

[Online portal launched for Common Core comments](#)

[Caddo launches first-of-its-kind teacher preparation program](#)

[LA Dept. of Education awards Principal/Teacher of the year](#)

[Rapides students gain option for dual enrollment](#)

[St. Tammany educator named state Teacher of the Year](#)

[Bosley named state Principal of the Year](#)

LDOE Contacts

John White
State Superintendent of Education
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Twitter @LouisianaSupe

LDOE Links

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