

Dana Dauzat

From: Dana Dauzat
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2015 1:41 PM
To: Dana Dauzat
Subject: Important News for School Districts

From: John White [mailto:ladepteduc@la.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2015 7:35 PM
To: Dana Dauzat
Subject: Important News for School Districts

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



August 4, 2015

Superintendents' Message

Dear Colleagues,

When our state committed to raising expectations for student work, among the most significant steps we took was identifying Advanced Placement courses and tests as emblems of our highest expectations. Research has shown that [AP](#) and [TOPS-aligned dual enrollment courses](#) provide invaluable preparation for students entering college. And AP training, curricula, and assessments provide teachers an important basis for defining quality student work and pedagogy.

In Louisiana, Advanced Placement course passage and dual enrollment passage courses both generate 110 points in the state's graduation index, while students can take [CLEP](#) or [AP tests](#) to demonstrate the highest level of college readiness and to generate 150 points.

In the years since these policies were instituted, hundreds of teachers have attended AP Summer Institutes. Dozens of high schools have started new AP and dual enrollment programs. The state has established the Supplemental Course Allocation, paying for more than 27,000 courses last year alone, most for college credit. TOPS now counts AP and dual enrollment courses as weighted in its grade point average calculation. And the state has paid for thousands of AP assessments for low-

income students.

Once the lowest state in the nation on Advanced Placement tests, Louisiana is now the fastest improving state in the country.

Tomorrow the Department will announce 2015 AP results, including record high numbers of students taking and passing AP tests, earning college credit, and demonstrating true readiness for the challenges of four-year university academics. The rate of progress over such a brief period is extraordinary. The progress is continuing. You can find statewide results by district and school [here](#).

I hope you will find ways to honor both the exceptional accomplishments of AP students and the above-and-beyond effort of their teachers. Both groups represent for the rest of us not just academic excellence but also the values of persistence and hard work, important traits for our children and our country both.

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

John
Louisiana Department of Education
Twitter @LouisianaSupe

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**CLICK HERE TO VIEW
THE MOST CURRENT
LEA CALENDAR EVENTS**

To view the current District Support Calendar, please click [here](#).

Monthly District Planning Call

This district planning call for August is scheduled for tomorrow, **August 5 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

To view a copy of tomorrow's presentation, [here](#). The following district supervisors should be in attendance:

- Assessment and Accountability
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Principal and Teacher Leader
- Data
- Early Childhood
- High School

Webinar Login Information: (*No pre-registration required)

- Meeting Name: August District Planning Call
- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dpc/>
- Enter meeting room as a guest and provide your name
- Call-In Information: (800) 832-0736; meeting room #3423625

Email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Superintendent's Conference Call

You are invited to participate in the Superintendents' Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White on **Wednesday, August 5, at 10:30 a.m.** You may begin dialing into the call 15 minutes in advance.

To join the Superintendents' Conference Call on June 24, please see the webinar information below:

Webinar Login Information (*No pre-registration required)

- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/suptscall/>
- Dial into the Phone Bridge: **(866) 244-4530**
- When prompted, please give the Meeting ID # **1660385**

- You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting

District Support

Submit Feedback for First Standards Review Committee Meeting by August 5

Educators are strongly encouraged to submit feedback on the Louisiana Student Standards through the [Standards Review Portal](#). Feedback submitted by August 5 will be considered at the first Standards Review Committee meeting on August 19.

The Department launched the portal to provide 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](#). Through this process, those individuals closest to students will review and develop expectations for Louisiana students that will prepare them for a successful transition to college and career.

More information on the review process can be found [here](#).

Please contact louisianastandards@la.gov with any questions.

2015-2016 Back-to-School Resources

Please share with Principals and Teachers.

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

To this end, the Department will offer a combination of in-person trainings, virtual support, high-quality tools and ongoing communication throughout the 2015-2016 school year.

The [2015-2016 Back-to-School Package](#) provides all educators with resources, tools and support structures to support planning and instruction, goal-setting and assessments for the start of the 2015-2016 school year. Please share this resource with principals and teachers in your district. Email districtsupport@la.gov with questions.

Professional Learning Modules Released

Attention District Leaders and Principals (Compass)

The Department has released the first in a series of [Louisiana Department of Education Professional Learning Modules](#) to provide educators an opportunity to deepen their understanding of the instructional leadership cycle.

The first module, [Compass Observation & Feedback](#) provides participants the opportunity to explore observation and feedback practices that best support teaching and learning.

A webinar will be on **August 6, 2015 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** to preview this module and consider how it can be incorporated into principal support plans.

Webinar Login Information: (**No pre-registration required*)

- Meeting Name: Compass Observation and Feedback Module
- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/r5a1mikwnmn/>
- Enter meeting room as a **guest** and provide your **name**
- Audio access: (800) 832- 0736 Conference Room Number: 9854040

Please email questions about these modules or the scheduled webinar to compass@la.gov.

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 opened in 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/>

SCA Counselor Webinars

Webinars are scheduled to provide an overview of the registration process to Professional School Counselors. The content of the webinars are the same each week.

- **August 10, 2015: 2:00 pm - 3:00 p.m.**
- **August 17, 2015: 2:00 pm - 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

2015-16 SCA Allocation

LEAs/Independent Public Schools can determine their SCA allocation by reviewing this document:

[http://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/minimum-foundation-program/2015-16-circular-no-1159b---hb1-appropriation-of-\\$2-6-million-for-supplemental-course-allocation.pdf?sfvrsn=4](http://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/minimum-foundation-program/2015-16-circular-no-1159b---hb1-appropriation-of-$2-6-million-for-supplemental-course-allocation.pdf?sfvrsn=4).

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. Please find the CEA [here](#).

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.

ACT Plan Letters

Network Teams will be providing ACT PLAN letters to LEAs for distribution to students who completed the PLAN Assessment in the spring of 2015. Each letter highlights the individual student's Advanced Placement (AP) potential and/or the student's career interest(s) that are aligned with Jump Start Career Pathways.

Individual student letters were developed based on the student performance's on the PLAN assessment and the student's responses to career World of Work inventory. A summary report by LEA will be provided. For more information please contact Jumpstart@la.gov.

Getting Started with CLEP

The College-Level Examination Program® (CLEP) helps students receive college credit for completion of advanced coursework.

District Test Coordinators, Administrators, Professional School Counselors, and Lead Teachers are encouraged to participate in one of the face-to-face trainings from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at one of the following locations:

- **Monday, August 24** at the Bossier Instructional Center in Bossier City
- **Tuesday, August 25** at the Bossier Instructional Center in Bossier City
- **Wednesday, August 26** at the Student Support Services Building in West Monroe
- **Thursday, August 27** at the Gladys Higdon Instructional Center in Alexandria
- **Tuesday, September 22** at the Calcasieu Parish School Board Assessment Building in Lake Charles
- **Wednesday, September 23** at EBR Professional Development Center in Baton Rouge
- **Friday, September 25** at the Treen Technology Center in Mandeville

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Please contact CollegeReadiness@la.gov with any questions or for additional information.

Career Development Funds (CDF)

The MFP formula recognizes that the cost of providing materials, equipment, and teacher credentialing and training for Jump Start Career and Technical Education courses is above and beyond the cost of traditional academic courses. Districts, charter schools and special schools are reminded to complete the [CDF Planning Report form](#) and submit to JumpStart@la.gov by August 15, 2015 to confirm your intention to spend CDF funds. Please see the [Estimated CDF 2015- 2016 Allocation](#) for an **estimate only** of CDF funding based on FY 2014-2015. Please see [Guidelines for Use of CDF Allocation](#) for revised guidelines for spending CDF allocations. An updated list of technical CTE courses qualifying for CDF funds will be forthcoming.

For more information about CDF, please contact JumpStart@la.gov.

Please contact Cathy St. Romain at 225.931.5994 with any questions.

Course Code Description- Applied Courses

The Department hosted a webinar to explain how the Special Education Reporting System (SER) has been enhanced to protect student privacy and support districts with appropriately planning educational experiences. To access the information about how Personally Identifiable Information (PII) impacts SER click [here](#). To access the information on how SER has been enhanced to capture Act 833 Implementation click [here](#).

Early Childhood

2015-16 LA 4 Updates Conference Call

All LA 4 providers are invited to participate in a conference call on August 11, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. The purpose of the call is to inform LA 4 coordinators of important updates pertinent to the LA 4 program for the 2015-16 school year, which include: changes to the Desk Review Monitoring Form, revisions to the requirements and guidelines document, and reporting procedures. The conference call number is (712) 775-7031, and the meeting ID number is 378-508-848.

Questions should be directed to: lindsey.bradford@la.gov.

Assessment & Accountability

Summer Data Package Release

Please forward to all district assessment contacts, accountability contacts and data coordinators.

To maximize awareness, usage and impact of data, the LDOE is streamlining several reports into data packages that will be released in alignment with important phases of the school year.

The **Summer Data Package** includes the following data analytics and reports to assist educators in identifying school, school leader, teacher and content area performance trends in preparation for the 2015-2016 school year:

- **Spring 2015 LEAP/iLEAP Assessment Summary Reports:** Available on the LDOE SFTP site through August 31st, 2015
- **Special Education Suite:** Available on the LDOE SFTP site through August 31st, 2015

- IDEA LEA Determinations
 - Act 833 Potential Eligibility Report
 - 1% & 2% Proficiency Cap Letters
 - IDEA Monitoring Rubric
- **ACT PLAN Reports:** To be delivered to districts along with ACT PLAN student letters by August 12.

Accompanying these resources is the Summer Data Package [coversheet](#), which describes each resource and gives insight on its intended audience and usage.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

AP Assessment Results

The Department will release district- and school-level AP results to districts via the FTP on Wednesday, August 5. These files will be available on the FTP from August 5, 2015 to September 5, 2015.

State, district, and school-level AP results are linked in Supt. White's message above. We ask that **districts do not share this data with the public or media until 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 5** when the Department sends the news release regarding the results.

Please email assessments@la.gov with questions.

Finance

Accountability for Weighted Student Funds in the MFP

Please forward to business managers and financial officials of City/Parish School districts, Type 2 and Type 5 Charter Schools, LSMSA, NOCCA, OJJ, LSU Lab and Southern Lab:

R.S. 17:7(2)(f)(i) provides for the accountability for weighted student funds included in the MFP. Per R.S.17:7(2)(f)(i), city, parish and other local public school districts, RSD schools, LSU and Southern Lab schools, LSMSA, NOCCA and Type 2 Charter schools are required to expend funds generated by applying the weighted factors contained in the formula for low income students, career and technical education course units, students with disabilities, and gifted and talented students on items that serve the unique needs of students who generate such funds. Funds must be expended on the following items:

- Personnel
- Professional Services
- Instructional Materials
- Equipment
- Supplies

Business Managers for City-Parish LEAs, Charter Schools and State Agencies should contact their Data Coordinators for the FY2015-16 MFP Weighted Calculations (LEACode_LEA_15-16 MFP Weighted) available July 27, 2015 through August 21, 2015 on the LEA's sFTP. [AFR Reporting Details](#) contains further clarification on reporting specifics for each weight as it pertains to the AFR.

If you have any questions or need further information, please email Melanie.ruiz@la.gov.

USDA Required School Lunch Match

Please forward to business managers of city/parish school districts, Type 5 and Type 2 charter schools, OJJ, LSMSA, NOCCA, and Southern and LSU Lab Schools.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires that districts and schools participating in the School Lunch Program contribute a portion of their state funds to the operation of this program. The contribution required of districts and schools must be supported by the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) allocations. This [memo](#) and [spreadsheet](#) provide details regarding each district's and school's required school lunch amount for FY2015-16.

If you have any questions or need further information, please email melanie.ruiz@la.gov.

FY 2015-2016 General Fund Budget

Please forward to business managers and financial officials of city/parish public school districts.

Louisiana R.S. 17:88 requires that district school boards adopt, no later than September 15, a budget of expected revenues and probable expenditures for the year and that copies of the budget be submitted to the State Superintendent of Education for review and approval. The following items outline the General Fund Budget requirements and collection process:

- [FY2015-16 General Fund Budget - memo](#)
- [Instructions and Signature Sheet](#)
- [FY2015-16 General Fund Budget - Form A](#)
- [Steps for Budget Adoption \(Legislative Auditor document for reference\)](#)

If you have any questions or need additional information, please e-mail melanie.ruiz@la.gov.

Grant Management

2015 Believe and Succeed / School Improvement 1003(g) Grant Application

The Department released the 2015 Believe and Succeed application on August 3, 2015. This year, Believe and Succeed Grants will be funded out of federal School Improvement 1003(g) grant funds. LEAs may apply for 3-5 year grants focused on high-quality initiatives that will improve school performance at eligible Focus or Priority schools.

The application, complete list of eligible schools, all necessary forms, the rubric against which applications will be evaluated, and more information about the program can be found [here](#). Applications are due by Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at 3:00pm CT.

Please email david.shepard@la.gov with questions.

2015-16 Coordinated Monitoring Schedule for Districts & Charter Schools

As a part of the Louisiana Department of Education's (LDOE) annual planning cycle, we are announcing the programmatic review schedule for the 2015-16 school year and summarizing key changes to the monitoring process. Click [here](#) for the full schedule.

The LDOE conducts monitoring of local education agencies (LEAs) and Type 2 and Type 5 charter schools to ensure that LEAs and charters are meeting the needs and improving the educational results of all students, in addition to complying with all

federal and state regulations.

In SY2015-16, we will be piloting a monitoring process for NCLB and IDEA that focuses districts and charters on the achievement of at-risk populations and that connects to overall data reporting/review. Less than 20 districts and charters selected for the pilot performance monitoring were identified using a risk assessment.

Another change is LDOE will be announcing review schedules quarterly in the newsletter, and the quarterly announcement emails will contain pertinent information and instructions, including the document due date for desk reviews being conducted that quarter. For districts identified for IDEA monitoring, more specific instructions will be included in the announcement email.

Also, LDOE is developing a monitoring management tool in the eGMS for full implementation next school year. We will be selecting several districts and charters to assist us in the testing of this tool.

If you have any questions about the monitoring schedule, please contact Linda Tindall at Linda.Tindall@la.gov.

Data

Monthly Data Coordinator Webinar

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for LEA managers of SPS, SPC, CUR, SIS, PEP, STS, SER, and AFR on **Wednesday, August 5 at 2:00 p.m.** Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, enhancements, and best practices.

Webinar Login Information: (**No pre-registration required*)

- Meeting Name: **System Data Coordinator Webinar**
- Click [here](#) or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dcw/>
- Enter meeting room as a guest and provide your name
- *Select Listen only mode.*

The presentation will be posted on the INSIGHT Coordinator's Portal under [Monthly DC Webinars](#) by August 4.

Data Files Available via FTP

- **Assessment Summary Reports:** Assessment Summary Report files are available within the "2015 Assessment Summary" subfolder on the Data Management FTP site (with usernames ending in @datamgmt) from July 31, 2015 until August 31, 2015. Data Coordinators are to provide these files to district leaders and principals.
- **Special Education Data Suite:** Special Education Suite files are available on the Data Management FTP site from August 3, 2015 until August 31, 2015. Data Coordinators are to supply the files to the district staff indicated below.
 - IDEA LEA Determinations (filename ending in "LEA Determinations") - provide to Superintendent and Special Education Director
 - Act 833 Potential Eligibility Report (filename ending in "Act 833") - provide to Special Education Director
 - 1% & 2% Proficiency Cap Letters (filename ending in "2013-14_ProficiencyCaps") - provide to Superintendent and Special Education Director
 - IDEA Monitoring Rubric (filename ending in "IDEA Monitoring Rubric")- provide to Superintendent and Special Education Director

- **AP Assessment Results:** AP assessment result files within the "AP Comparison Report" subfolder will be available on the Data Management FTP site from August 5, 2015 until September 5, 2015. Data coordinators are to supply these files to the Superintendent, Accountability contact and District Test Coordinator.

For assistance with accessing FTP, email LDEData@la.gov.

MFP Accountability Funding Data Available on the FTP

Please share with data and FTP coordinators

MFP Accountability for Weighted Student Funding: The MFP Accountability for Weighted Student Funding files for FY2015-16 will be placed in your data management FTP (username ending in @datamgmt) July 27, 2015. This file will be named, "**LEA Code_LEA_15-16 MFP Weighted**" and will be available on FTP until August 21, 2015. Please supply this file to your Business and Financial Managers.

For assistance with accessing FTP, email LDEData@la.gov.

Talent

2014-2015 Teacher Exit Interview Data Collection

[State law](#) requires all local education agencies to compile and report on the reasons teachers are leaving a school or district. Please report this data via the [data collection portal](#) by August 7, 2015. The portal can be accessed by those with Human Resources rights to the [Teach LA](#) website. Simply log in to the Teach Louisiana web site, click on the "**Human Resources**" tab and click on the "**Exit Interview**" link.

Please contact Barbara.burke@la.gov with questions or for technical assistance. to view the 2016 Teacher and Principal of the Year honorees and state-level winners.

Special Education Policy

Understanding SER and PII

Districts are invited to participate in a session on how the Special Education Reporting System (SER) is impacted by state privacy laws. The session will outline what information LEAs are able to access compared to what the LDOE can access and how LEAs are able to provide individualized education plans while also remaining compliant with R.S. 17:3914.

This webinar will take place **Monday, August 3 at 2:00 p.m.** Please see the webinar details below:

Webinar Login Information: (*No pre-registration required)

- Meeting Name: **SER and PII**

- Click [here](#) to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/serandpii/>
- Enter meeting room as a **guest** and provide your **name**
- Audio access: **(800) 832-0736** / room number: 8651822

Education in the News

[Letters: The 2015-16 Louisiana Student Standards Review deserve strong participation from the public](#)

[Recovery superintendent sets goals, reviews decade of change](#)

[Expulsions drop 14 percent in New Orleans public schools](#)

[Louisiana business lobby endorses 4 education board candidates](#)

[The New Orleans OneApp](#)

[Lawmakers want jail time for illegal daycares](#)

LDOE Contacts

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