

Dana Dauzat

From: Dana Dauzat
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 4:54 PM
To: Dana Dauzat
Subject: Important News for School Districts

From: John White [mailto:ladepteduc@la.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2015 7:34 PM
To: Dana Dauzat
Subject: Important News for School Districts

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



September 8, 2015

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Policy that promotes student achievement must strike a balance between ambition and customization. In no area is this more important and more difficult to achieve than in graduation policy, particularly for high school students classified as having disabilities.

Exceptions to traditional graduation standards risk exposure to the "soft bigotry of low expectations." On the other hand, refusal to acknowledge real differences among students can deny access to a diploma that is essential for life after high school.

In Louisiana we have spent the last year and a half discussing these questions. These discussions resulted in the passage of [Act 833](#) of 2014, establishing alternate means by which students could show proficiency while maintaining high standards. Advocates then developed [Jump Start pathways](#) customized to the needs of some students eligible for Act 833, providing linkage to the workplace. Finally, BESE established the state's first [diploma framework](#) for students classified as LAA 1, ensuring both high expectations for student growth and customized curricula and transition services. These changes represent a significant attempt to expand opportunity for all students in our state, especially the most vulnerable.

Together, these changes represent a significant expansion in academic and career opportunities for all students in our state, especially the most vulnerable.

Tomorrow the Department will announce that school districts and charter schools will be eligible to apply for \$4 million in Opportunity Grants that will provide supplemental funding to develop training and coursework that correspond with these new opportunities. You can find a request for applications [here](#). Supported by IDEA dollars, the Opportunity Grants will allow schools to fund one-time costs associated with these new frameworks.

Diploma policy, accountability systems, and special education policy often combine to make difficult discussions. We have a chance now to take the difficult policy work we have done together and the challenging debates we have had over the years, and turn the results into real opportunity for the students who need us most. I hope you'll take advantage of [Opportunity Grants](#) to innovate, to create solutions, and to transform Baton Rouge policies into a brighter future for students across Louisiana.

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

John

John White
Louisiana Department of Education
Twitter @LouisianaSupe

In This Issue:

[Superintendent's Message](#)

[District Support](#)

[High School Opportunities](#)

[Special Education Policy](#)

[Finance](#)

[Data](#)

[Student Programs](#)

[Other](#)

[Education in the News](#)



CLICK HERE TO VIEW
THE MOST CURRENT
LEA CALENDAR EVENTS

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

District Support

Literacy Design Collaborative Training

Teachers and leaders can register [here](#) for the September [Literacy Design Collaborative](#) (LDC) sessions being held in:

- Bossier on September 9
- Lafayette on September 10
- Chalmette on September 11

These sessions support ELA, science, and social studies teachers in grades 3-12 in creating unit plans and daily instructional plans for students using resources in the [Teacher Support Toolbox](#).

Click [here](#) for participant expectations, training dates, and overview of the framework.

Contact jill.slack@la.gov for assistance.

Round Three of Believe and Prepare: Educator Preparation Grants - Cohort 3 RFA

Recruiting and training the next generation of teachers is a district's first step to ensure that new teachers are classroom ready, every classroom is staffed by an effective teacher and all students are on a successful path to college and career.

In order to better support districts in their preparation of new teachers, the Department has released a Request for Applications (RFA) for the third cohort of Believe and Prepare Educator Preparation Grants. Through Believe and Prepare, schools, districts, and preparation programs have the opportunity to meet the challenges of teacher readiness and teacher shortages through grants of up to \$200,000 that support schools through partnerships or through district-based preparation programs.

Cohort 3 awards will focus on building strong mentor teacher cadres, growing the number of teachers participating in a yearlong residency, and increasing the number of special education teachers participating in teacher preparation programs.

Applications are due by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 18**. Grant winners will be announced shortly thereafter. The RFA can be accessed [here](#). Contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

High School Opportunities

Community Service Diploma Endorsement

Beginning with freshmen entering school year 2013-14 and beyond, LEAs may award the [Community Service Diploma Endorsement](#) to graduates who have completed a minimum number of documented community service hours each year.

The Department is required to provide an annual report to the Legislature regarding the number of students pursuing this diploma endorsement statewide. By September 15, please provide the name and email for a designated Community Service Diploma Endorsement district contact to Jennifer.Falls@la.gov.

District contacts will be invited to participate in a Community Service Diploma Endorsement webinar and asked to respond to a brief survey about the status of [Community Service Diploma Endorsements](#) in your district.

Building and Sustaining an AP[®] Program Webinar

To promote successful growth of AP[®] Programs statewide, LDE will host a webinar to provide AP[®] teachers, coordinators, and administrators with best practices for building and sustaining an AP[®] program. Participants are encouraged to participate in one of the webinars scheduled for:

- **Wednesday, September 16 from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**
- **Monday, September 21 from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Webinar Login Information (**no pre-registration required*)

- **Meeting Name:** Building and Sustaining an AP[®] Program
- **Click [here](#)** to join the meeting or go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/buildingap/>
- Enter meeting room as a **guest** and provide your **name**
- Audio access: **(800) 832-0736**; room number: **2834406**

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

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:

- **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.

Special Education Policy

Opportunity Grant: Building Pathways to High School Diplomas for Students with Disabilities

The Department has released an opportunity for LEAs to apply for funding to establish or enhance effective career education programs for students with disabilities that lead to high school diplomas. All LEAs serving students in grades T9-12th are eligible to apply for funds. Optional application planning sessions will take place during the regional supervisors collaborative events during the week of September 14-18.

To access the request for applications (RFA) click [here](#).

To access the Opportunity Grant application packet click [here](#).

Applications are due by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 16**. Contact SpecialEducation@la.gov with questions.

Finance

FY2015-16 MFP Budget Letter

As revisions to FY2015-16 MFP Allocations occur they are posted to the Department's website [here](#). Business Managers should check the website for any applicable changes to monthly MFP payments.

If you have any questions or require additional information please email melanie.ruiz@la.gov.

Stipends for Foreign Associate Teachers and Escadrille Louisiane Graduates

Please forward to business managers and financial officials of public school districts and charter schools.

Funding of stipends for Foreign Associate Teachers and Escadrille Louisiane Graduates is provided in the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) for FY2015-16. The following items are attached for your reference:

- [FY2014-15 Stipends for Foreign Associate Teachers - Memo](#)
- [FY2014-15 Stipends for Foreign Associate Teachers - Allocations](#)

For questions or more information please contact Melanie Ruiz Melanie.ruiz@la.gov.

New Requirement for Indirect Cost - Sub-award Data Collection

Please forward to Business Managers and Financial Officials of City/Parish School Districts, Type 2 and Type 5 Charter Schools:

LDOE currently calculates the Indirect Cost Rate for each LEA annually based on the expenditure data reported in the AFR. In order to maintain compliance with LDOE's current Indirect Cost agreement with USDOE for the 2016 - 2017 rate calculation, LEAs will be required to provide additional financial data to capture *sub-award* amounts during the FY 14-15 AFR submission. The financial data will be submitted via the LEADS portal. The portal to capture this data is anticipated to be available by **mid-October**, at which time additional details will be provided on how to complete and submit the required information. For information regarding sub-awards click [here](#).

If you have any questions concerning sub-awards and indirect costs, contact Monique Livious at Monique.Livious2@la.gov or Nakia Jason at Nakia.Jason@la.gov.

Data

Update on Vendor Data Sharing Agreements

Pursuant to R.S. 17:3914, LEAs must have a contract or data sharing agreement in place with private vendors that deliver services under state contracts in order to share personally identifiable student data. Based on feedback from LEAs, the Department is in the process of amending existing data sharing agreements and posting them on the LDOE website.

The Department currently has the following data sharing agreements for viewing [here](#):

- eScholar
- CAI (SER)
- Red-e Set Grow
- iSTEEP
- Pacific Metrics (EAGLE)
- Teaching Strategies Gold
- Brookes Publishing (AEPSi)

The following data sharing agreements will be available as soon as possible:

- DIBELS
- Pacific Metrics-EOC
- ACT

Districts and charters should download the addendums from the site, sign, scan, and email the signed copy to LDEData@la.gov in order to ensure that they will be able to share student information with these vendors for testing and reporting purposes.

Please email ldedata@la.gov with questions.

FY2015-2016 Audit Assurances and Class Size Reports

FY2015-2016 Audit Assurances and Class Size Reports: The Audit Assurances packet is now available on INSIGHT and [here](#). 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 email ldedata@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Secure ID Training: Near Match Resolution

The Department and eScholar will host a webinar **on Friday, September 11 at 12:00 p.m.** to review the process for resolving LA Secure ID near matches for students and allow data coordinators to ask questions about this process and how to resolve issues in their district or charter.

Near matches occur during Secure ID assignment when the system finds student records that are potential matches to the record submitted by the LEA. Near matches require LEAs to make a decision as to which of the students found, if any, match the student submitted. Incorrect Secure ID matches could result in duplicate IDs being created or assigning more than one student the same Secure ID.

Participants must pre-register for the webinar [here](#) or go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7320476218939426561>.

Data Coordinators are asked to submit questions to louisianasecureID@escholar.com in advance of the webinar.

The Department currently has the following data sharing agreements for viewing [here](#):

The following data sharing agreements will be available as soon as possible:

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- ACT

Districts and charters should download the addendums from the site, sign, scan, and email the signed copy to LDEData@la.gov in order to ensure that they will be able to share student information with these vendors for testing and reporting purposes.

Please email ldedata@la.gov with questions.

Student Programs

REMINDER- Registration Now Open: Methods of Administration Civil Rights Review Training

Please forward to District and Postsecondary CTE Coordinators and Facility Managers.

The Louisiana Community & Technical College System and the Louisiana Department of Education are planning a one-day event to be held at the West Baton Rouge Convention and Visitors Bureau, 2750 North Westport Drive, Port Allen, LA 70767, on November 17, 2015, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., on the subject of Methods of Administration Civil Rights Reviews. Mr. Michael Brustein, of Brustein & Manasevit, Attorneys at Law, will present on the major civil rights laws that inform Methods of Administration Civil Rights Reviews. The target audience will be CTE Coordinators and Facility Managers and postsecondary Perkins Representatives and Facility Managers. Please click [here](#) to register. For more information at this time, please contact Terry Simoneaux, LDOE, at Terry.Simoneaux@la.gov or Patricia Felder, LCTCS, at patriciafelder@lctcs.edu.

Second Quarter 2015-16 Coordinated Monitoring Schedule for Districts & Charter Schools

The Department announced the programmatic review schedule for the 2015-16 school year in the August 4, 2015, newsletter and stated that quarterly review schedules will be included in future newsletters.

Click [here](#) for the full schedule. Click [here](#) for the Second Quarter schedule.

Second quarter announcement emails containing pertinent information and instructions, including the document due date for desk reviews will be issued this week.

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

Other

Application for U.S. Senate Youth Program

The Department and the William Randolph Hearst Foundation encourage students in your districts to submit an application for the [2016 United States Senate Youth Program](#). Two outstanding students from Louisiana will be selected to spend a week in

Washington, D.C. in March of 2016, and will each receive a \$5,000 scholarship from the Hearst Foundation.

Please distribute the [national program brochure](#) and the [logistics memo](#), which includes the application and selection procedures. High school personnel should contact marian.johnson@la.gov for the essay topics, which will not be publicly posted.

Applications are due to the Department by October 9, 2015. Finalists will be notified by October 22.

Please email marian.johnson@la.gov for additional submission information or general questions about the program.

Education in the News

[All children should be trained for college, educator asserts](#)

[11 struggling Jefferson schools launch academic improvement plans](#)

[Teacher Efficacy Campaign advocacy session set in New Orleans](#)

LDOE Contacts

[John White](#)
State Superintendent of Education
(toll-free) 877.453.2721
Twitter @LouisianaSupe

LDOE Links

[LDOE Website](#)
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