

## Dana Dauzat

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**From:** Dana Dauzat  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2015 10:33 AM  
**To:** Dana Dauzat  
**Subject:** Important News for School Districts

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**From:** John White [mailto:ladepteduc@la.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 22, 2015 6:02 PM  
**To:** Dana Dauzat  
**Subject:** Important News for School Districts

# LDOE Weekly Newsletter



September 22, 2015

## Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Our state committed to adopting nationally-recognized standards and tests that yield outcomes comparable to other states more than five years ago. In the time since, graduation rates, college-going ACT scores, AP credits, and the number of students going on to college have all increased.

As we approach the time when results will be verified and finalized, it is important that we communicate completely accurate information to parents regarding their children's academic performance.

Test questions completed by Louisiana students have been graded. Now Department staff, the LEAP testing vendor, and your school district's staff are in the process of verifying the accuracy of every student record. Louisiana is on track to compile and communicate statewide results on roughly the same schedule as that of other states administering the test.

At present, Department staff and the vendor are verifying individual student raw scores, and along with district staff, are verifying rosters of students. The individual student raw score is the calculation of points a student accumulated based on grading of each test question. For a given student the raw score looks like this: *72 out of 104*. The raw score for an individual

student is compiled prior to producing a scale score (the ACT is scored on a scale of 36, for example), cut scores (the level at which a student earns "basic" or "mastery"), or analyses of which skill sets the student has mastered or not mastered.

While individual student raw scores will thus not indicate any detail as to students' performance on specific sets of skills, as you know, the Department can provide you and your district's test coordinator an update report on individual student raw scores in your district when student records are verified. It is critical that in reviewing individual raw scores you maintain a commitment to providing parents with accurate, intelligible information.

Following the individual student raw score data verification process, the Department will correlate each raw score with a score on the PARCC scale. BESE will then review a general report of statewide scale scores when it considers the PARCC cut scores at its October 13 meeting. Per state law, because the cut scores BESE will consider for delineating performance levels will be the same as in other states administering PARCC, and because the cut scores align with NAEP cut scores, results from the test will be comparable with those in other states.

The culminating product of the scoring process will be a detailed report for each student, highlighting academic strengths and weaknesses. These student reports, due out in early November, provide parents complete, detailed, accurate information. It is important that every calculation be accurate and final in advance of these reports being sent to parents. You can find sample student reports [here](#).

The state will then conduct further analysis to produce reports for schools and districts in November, after parents and teachers have had a chance to review and discuss individual student reports.

As it has been for years, and as it is in other states completing the process on the same timeline, it is important that we adhere to each step of this process, in order to provide completely accurate final information to parents about their children.

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

**John**

John White  
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](#).

## District Support

### Additional Principal Goal Setting Resources Released

#### Attention District Leaders and Principals (Compass)

To support educators in the process of setting ambitious and meaningful goals for student learning, the Department has released new resources for this school year including:

- [Teacher Goal Setting Resources](#): Including newly released items.
- Updated [School Performance Score Calculator](#) aligned to the [goal setting guidance](#) released this summer.
- Goal-Setting support for principals of schools and programs with special missions:
  - [K-2 Configuration](#)
  - [Alternative](#)
  - [Career Technical](#)

Additional principal support resources can be found [here](#).

Please email any questions you may have about Compass or the related resources to [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov).

### K-12 Resources for ELA Guidebook Units

#### Please share with Principals and ELA Teachers

The Department has developed blank, customizable templates to accompany the K-12 English Language Arts Guidebook units. These templates will support students in reading, understanding and expressing understanding of complex, grade-level texts. The templates are downloadable and can be modified to meet the needs of the students in the classroom.

The blank template documents for grades K-12 are posted [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact, [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov).

# High School Opportunities

## 2015-2016 Pupil Progression Plan Submission Deadline

Please be reminded that Pupil Progression Plans (PPP) are due to the LDE by September 30, 2015. All PPPs are to be submitted in PDF format to [PPP@la.gov](mailto:PPP@la.gov). For more information on the submission process, click [here](#).

For questions concerning the [2015-2016 Pupil Progression Plan Template](#) or for additional information, contact Tristen Guillory, College Readiness Coordinator, at [Tristen.guillory@la.gov](mailto:Tristen.guillory@la.gov).

## SAVE the DATE: Jobs for America's Graduates-Louisiana (JAG-LA) Student Leadership Conference (SLC)

The Office of Student Opportunities will be hosting the 20th Annual Student Leadership Conference (SLC) at the Lafayette Cajundome on **Thursday, November 5, 2015**. JAG-LA participants from across the state will attend sessions focused on improving leadership skills, employability skills, and training for their newly elected positions. Additionally, the 2015-2016 JAG-LA state officer elections will be held and an installation ceremony conducted for newly elected state officers. For more information contact please contact Dianna Keller at [Dianna.Keller@la.gov](mailto:Dianna.Keller@la.gov).

## AP Professional Development Opportunities

### **AP<sup>®</sup> Course Audit Webinar**

To encourage and support AP<sup>®</sup> Programs statewide, the Department will host an AP<sup>®</sup> Course Audit webinar providing AP<sup>®</sup> teachers and administrators with clear guidelines on curricular and resource requirements that must be in place for AP<sup>®</sup> courses. Teachers of AP<sup>®</sup> courses, whether for the first time or as a refresher course, are invited to participate.

Teachers and administrators are encouraged to participate in one of the webinars scheduled for:

- **Tuesday, September 29 - 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**
- **Thursday, October 1 - 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

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

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

### **AP<sup>®</sup> Professional Development Workshop**

In effort to assist all students with developing the skills needed to succeed in college, the College Board is offering a [professional development workshop](#) for teachers, counselors and administrators. For 2015, topics will include AP<sup>®</sup> Biology, AP<sup>®</sup> Calculus AB, AP<sup>®</sup> English Language and Composition, AP<sup>®</sup> English Literature and Composition, AP<sup>®</sup> U.S. History, and AP<sup>®</sup> Exam Administration for AP<sup>®</sup> Coordinators (Free Registration).

**Location:** Baton Rouge Magnet High School  
**Date:** October 13, 2015  
**Time:** 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
**Registration:** Early Bird Deadline - September 22, 2015  
Registration Deadline - September 29, 2015

To register online using meeting ID 3031510131, click [here](#). For more information on AP<sup>®</sup> Professional Development Opportunities, please contact [CollegeReadiness@la.gov](mailto:CollegeReadiness@la.gov).

## Assessment and Accountability

### **Louisiana's Plan to Protect Student Privacy Guidebook**

**Please share with Data Coordinators, District Test Coordinators and Special Education Supervisors**

The Department released a [student privacy guidebook](#), *Louisiana's Plan to Protect Student Privacy*, at last week's supervisor collaboration meetings. This guidebook provides guidance around implementing recent student privacy legislation while drawing on best practices that protect student information and support its use.

This guidebook should be shared with superintendents and district administrators including data coordinators, testing coordinators, and special education supervisors.

Please contact Elizabeth Laird at [Elizabeth.laird@la.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.laird@la.gov) with questions.

### **Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call and Webinar**

The October Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call and Webinar is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 6, at 9:00 a.m.**

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

- Meeting Name: District Test Coordinator Monthly Meetings
- 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: (800) 832-0736 / room number: 3423602
- Select the "listen only mode" if joining the meeting via computer or smartphone.

Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with any questions.

### **DIBELS Next Reporting Deadline Extension**

**Please forward to District Test Coordinators (DTCs)**

**The DIBELS Next reporting deadline has been extended to October 15.**

On **Friday, September 18**, the **DIBELS data sharing agreement** was finalized and posted [here](#). Districts and charters should now download, sign, scan, and return the [addendum](#) to [LDEData@la.gov](mailto:LDEData@la.gov). Upon completion, data may be entered into the DIBELS Data System (DDS).

See the [DIBELS Next Guide to Administration](#) for additional information on data entry, or email [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

### **Developing Skills Checklist (DSC) Deadlines**

**Please forward to District Test Coordinators (DTCs)**

The Developing Skills Checklist (DSC) **deadline to screen Kindergarten students is September 30**. The final day to report results at [www.k.onlinedsc.net](http://www.k.onlinedsc.net) is October 15.

Please contact Cathy Caldwell at [Ccaldwell@redesetgrow.com](mailto:Ccaldwell@redesetgrow.com) or Susan Seaford at [Sseaford@redesetgrow.com](mailto:Sseaford@redesetgrow.com) with questions about entering data into the DSC web application.

For any other questions, please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@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 Department website.

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

- **Pacific Metrics (OAS) - necessary for December EOCs**
- **University of Oregon (DIBELS)**
- 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:

- ACT

Districts and charters should download the addendums from the site, sign, scan, and email the signed copy to [LDEData@la.gov](mailto: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](mailto:ldedata@la.gov) with questions.

### Teacher-Student Data Link (TSDL)

**Please forward to all data coordinators.**

The Teacher-Student Data Link (TSDL) Collection system provides a link between students and teachers who instruct them, and is used to pregrid December EOC tests. The **system is now open for submissions through September 28** for the 1st TSDL Collection of the 2015-2016 school year. The TSDL User Guide is available on the Coordinator's Portal of [Insight](#) to assist data coordinators in this process.

The system will remain open until October 23 for all other class data submissions.

Please email [systemsupport@la.gov](mailto:systemsupport@la.gov) with questions.

## Grants Management

### **National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grants**

The Fiscal Year 2015 Agriculture Appropriations Act has awarded Louisiana \$467,623 to be distributed to School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the NSLP to purchase equipment to serve healthier meals that meet the updated meal patterns. Priority will be given to schools where 50% or more of the enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced price meals and have not received equipment grant funding in 2009, 2010, or 2014. Grant related information is located at the [Equipment Assistance Grants for School Food Authorities](#) link. Online applications will be accessible at [Child Nutrition Programs](#) website on October 1, 2015. The deadline for submission is October 31, 2015.

### **Education Excellence Fund (EEF) Application Process**

**Please forward to business managers.**

A webinar will be held on September 29, 2015, to learn more about the EEF application process. Participants are encouraged to participate in the webinar scheduled for: Tuesday, September 29, 2015, from 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Local education agencies must use the Department's electronic grants management system ([eGMS](#)) to apply for Education Excellence Funds (EEF). Paper applications are no longer accepted.

For further information about EEF, contact Erica Jenkins at [Erica.Jenkins@la.gov](mailto:Erica.Jenkins@la.gov) or Kenya Pierce at [Kenya.Pierce@la.gov](mailto:Kenya.Pierce@la.gov).

## Student Programs

### **Announcement of 2015-2016 LA 4 and Title I-A Prekindergarten Program Monitoring**

Please see the attached announcement Memorandum pertaining to the Department's plan to monitor local agencies that are operating Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Prekindergarten and/or ESEA Title I, Part A Prekindergarten Programs during the 2015-2016 school year. For additional information, please contact Terry Simoneaux, Statewide Monitoring, at 225-342-9615 or [Terry.Simoneaux@la.gov](mailto:Terry.Simoneaux@la.gov).

### **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](mailto:Terry.Simoneaux@la.gov) or Patricia Felder, LCTCS, at [patriciafelder@lctcs.edu](mailto:patriciafelder@lctcs.edu).

## 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 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](mailto: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](mailto:marian.johnson@la.gov) for additional submission information or general questions about the program.

### **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Issues Key Guidance for Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) At Outdoor School-Related Activities**

The FAA has serious concerns about the safety of operating UAS, otherwise known as drones, near people or stadiums and can enforce breaches of flight safety. Superintendents and Administrators are urged to reference the FAA website, [http://www.faa.gov/uas/model\\_aircraft/](http://www.faa.gov/uas/model_aircraft/), where guidance is spelled out under Model Aircraft (Hobby or Recreation only).

There are also two additional helpful links: [http://www.faa.gov/uas/publications/media/27231\\_FAA\\_KBYF\\_lores.pdf](http://www.faa.gov/uas/publications/media/27231_FAA_KBYF_lores.pdf) and [http://www.faa.gov/uas/no\\_drone\\_zone/](http://www.faa.gov/uas/no_drone_zone/). These two links illustrate the Do's and Don'ts of UAS flying and also various types of No Drone Zone signage examples for designated prohibited areas.

## Education in the News

[Louisiana superintendent discusses upcoming PARCC results](#)

[2/3 of Louisiana seniors pass final exams, same as last year](#)

[School Supt. wants to let teachers 'do their job' for new Common Core Standards](#)

### LDOE Contacts

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