

Dana Dauzat

From: Dana Dauzat
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 1:57 PM
To: Dana Dauzat
Subject: Important News for School Districts

From: John White [<mailto:ladepteduc@la.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 4:02 PM
To: Judy Stracener
Subject: Important News for School Districts

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



September 29, 2015

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

For five years, educators have been raising expectations for Louisiana's students to a level as high as that in any state in America. Over the course of this process, students have achieved record-high numbers of high school graduates, graduates with college-going ACT scores, Advanced Placement credits, and graduates entering college.

Starting November 2014, the Department of Education communicated that the 2015 English and math test result reporting process would be extended for technical reasons, as was the case in the first year of LEAP test administration.

At a recent public meeting nearly one year later, it was requested for the first time that the Department provide school systems with "individual student raw scores," the number of points each student earned out of the number of points available. As the process of scoring and checking each test questions was finalized in September (rather than July, as has been inaccurately depicted), the Department has provided these data to districts that requested it and is proceeding with the calculation of scale scores, the more familiar means of evaluating student performance.

In the weeks to come, the Department will produce the more familiar scale scores (ACT is scored on a scale of 36, for example), cut scores (basic, mastery), statewide reports, LEA reports, school reports, and, most important, individual student reports. You can find a sample individual student report [here](#).

High school performance scores and letter grades will be produced in October. Elementary and middle school report cards and letter grades will be published in December.

It is most important throughout this process that all of us focus on providing only accurate and intelligible information to families.

Below is a timeline outlining this process in detail. The timeline provides specific dates and weeks at which individual student raw scores, scale scores, cut scores, and skill reports will be created and reported. I ask that you review it carefully and send your network leader or me any questions with which we might provide assistance.

November 2014	Department announces 2015 test score release schedule
March/May 2015	320,000 students take PARCC tests
June - August	Individual test questions scored by LEAP vendor
August - September	PARCC state "standard-setting" verifies that questions were as challenging as anticipated before students completed test.
Sept. 28 - Oct. 2	Individual student raw scores (total points out of total available) Finalized.
Oct. 5 - 9	Statewide briefings from technical experts on standard setting, scale scores, cut scores, and comparability among Louisiana and other states, in advance of BESE meeting.
Oct. 12	Public release of preliminary statewide scale scores (state-level only; not by LEA level or school level)
Oct. 13	BESE considers cut score levels to determine mastery, advanced, basic, approaching basic, and unsatisfactory
Oct. 14	Department begins applying cut scores to scale scores
Oct. 19 - 23	Public release of LEA and school-level final scores by cut level
Oct. 26 - 30	Public release of high school performance scores and letter grades (this is the latest date; may be completed earlier).
Nov. 9 - 13	Individual student reports for LEAs, teachers, and families detailing scores and skills for every student
December	Elementary and middle school performance scores and letter grades released

As you can see, this is an intense period of gathering information, validating information, analyzing information, and reporting information. We will work with you and your staffs every step of the way, remaining focused on the goal of communicating accurate information to parents.

I look forward to your questions or thoughts.

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

John

John White
Louisiana Department of Education
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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

Superintendent's Conference Call

You are invited to participate in the Superintendents' Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White on **Wednesday, October 7, at 10:30 a.m.** You may begin dialing into the call 15 minutes in advance.

To join the Superintendents' Conference Call on October 7, 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) 847-7861**
- When prompted, please give the Meeting ID # **1663765**

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

Using CLASS as the Teacher Professional Practice Rubric

Attention District Leaders and Principals (Compass)

The Department has released [additional guidance](#) to support next steps for districts and charter organizations who submitted requests to use the CLASS rubric for the purpose of evaluating professional practice of public school PreK teachers in all or some of their schools.

Districts and charter schools should be reminded that evaluation programs must:

- Must meet the requirements outlined in [Bulletin 130](#) which includes specific information about who evaluates teachers and other components of the observation.
- Must meet the requirements outlined in [Bulletin 140](#) for early childhood classroom observations.

Please email questions about this process to compass@la.gov.

USDOE and Department of Justice English Learner Tool Kit

The U.S. Departments of Education (ED) and Justice (JD) have completed the English Learner Toolkit to support states, districts, and schools in meeting their legal obligation to EL students and ensuring access to a quality education. The EL Tool Kit is a companion to the EL Guidance released jointly by the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice in January, 2015.

The tool kit consists of 10 chapters, and each chapter is aligned to one of the 10 sections of the guidance. Each chapter contains easy-to-use tools and resources relevant to the topic of the chapter to help educators support their EL students.

The tool kit is accessible and can be easily downloaded and printed at the following link:

ed.gov/oela/english-learner-toolkit/

The joint EL Guidance released in January can be found at:

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-el-201501.pdf>

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. 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.quillory@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.

AP Professional Development Opportunities

AP[®] Course Audit Webinar

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

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

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

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

- **Meeting Name:** AP[®] Course Audit Process
- **Click [here](https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/apcourseaudit/)** 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[®] 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[®] Biology, AP[®] Calculus AB, AP[®] English Language and Composition, AP[®] English Literature and Composition, AP[®] U.S. History, and AP[®] Exam Administration for AP[®] 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[®] Professional Development Opportunities, please contact 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*. 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 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 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. 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 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 is October 15.

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

For any other questions, please contact assessment@la.gov.

Data

Production Performance Notification for SIS and SER

Please share with Data Coordinators and Special Education Directors.

The Special Education Reporting System (SER) and the Student Information System (SIS) are experiencing intermittent performance issues which the Department is working on a permanent solution to address. As this Thursday is the October 1 deadline, please be advised of the following:

- For SIS, LEAs have until October 23 to verify, clean up, and ensure error-free data for students enrolled as of October 1 is submitted to SIS.
- For SER, LEAs have until October 30 to verify, clean up, and ensure all data is submitted to SER.
 - The Department will run the final 2015-16 IDEA Child Count on Friday, October 30th.
 - To be included in the October 1 IDEA Child Count, a student must have the following:
 - A current evaluation disseminated on or before October 1
 - A current IEP with a team meeting date on or before October 1
 - Active services beginning on or before October 1

Daily updates to issues and resolutions are being published to the LDOE INSIGHT Coordinator's Portal.

TSDL Data Submission Deadline Extension

The deadline for submitting first-time December end-of-course (EOC) testers to the TSDL system has been extended until **12 p.m. on Wednesday, October 7**. To ensure accurate pre-gridding of EOC test documents, data must be complete and error-free by this deadline. For more information, contact Ashley.Augustine@la.gov.

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 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.

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 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.

Student Programs

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. We also 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 were issued on September 8-9, 2015.

REMINDER: The document due date is October 2, 2015 for subrecipients scheduled for desk reviews in the second quarter.

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

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

Please click [here](#) for the 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.

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.

Other

U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

The U.S. Department of Education has invited chief state school officers 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 component (automatically qualified based on ACT/SAT scores) or arts component. Nominations may also include students who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in career and technical education. The LDOE, therefore, invites local superintendents to submit nominations for up to 3 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-August 2016. Please see additional program requirements at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/psp/index.html>. 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 erin.bendily@la.gov no later than **Friday, October 9 at 4:30 p.m.** Please note "Presidential Scholars" in the subject line.

CHADD2015: Annual International Conference on ADD/ADHD

This fall Louisiana will host the annual international conference on ADD/ADHD, sponsored by Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD). CHADD is a national nonprofit organization that improves the lives of people affected by ADHD through education, advocacy, and support. The conference, which will be held November 12-14 in New Orleans, will feature a number of sessions and trainings delivered by top experts to help educators and school administrators serve students with ADD/ADHD. Please visit www.CHADD.org for more information and for conference registration information.

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 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

[Alumni gather to salute McDonogh 35's new building, key to its return to longtime academic excellence](#)

[LDE announces \\$2.85 M in Believe and Prepare Teacher Preparation grants, Calcasieu Parish to benefit](#)

[Fort Polk celebrates Louisiana Principal of the Year](#)

[Raytheon recognizes 25 teachers for excellence in math and science](#)

[State will release initial Common Core test results Oct. 12; some would like to see results earlier](#)

LDOE Contacts

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LDOE Links

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