

Dana Dauzat

From: Dana Dauzat
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2015 11:48 AM
To: Dana Dauzat
Subject: Important News for School Districts

From: John White [mailto:ladepteduc@la.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2015 8:30 PM
To: Dana Dauzat
Subject: Important News for School Districts

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



December 8, 2015

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Over the course of this fall, you and your teams have made use of assessment results from the 2014-2015 school year to inform parents, assist teachers, and drive improvements. Your [efforts](#) to communicate PARCC results at the classroom, community, and home level were unprecedented.

In this respect, the annual release of elementary, middle, and combination school report cards is no different. The report cards provide communities, schools, and school systems a chance to take stock of both strengths and areas for improvement.

Starting this week, Department staff will provide you information to be listed on the report cards in your schools and districts. After the holidays, network teams will partner with district leaders to walk through Superintendent and Principal Profiles - comprehensive data sets based on last year's results.

Next Tuesday, December 15, the Department will release a guide to using the report cards, illustrating for parents, educators, and community members the types of information communicated on this year's report cards.

Next Wednesday, December 16, the state will provide you a statewide report for all schools and districts, and next Thursday, December 17, the state will post all report cards publicly.

There will of course be much discussion as to how well schools and school districts performed and as to how they rank relative to one another. But let's also focus on the cycle of continuing improvement and the power of information to fuel that cycle. Our role as leaders is to ensure access to information that compels change. From the home to the classroom to the principal's office, a rich set of information capturing the truth of performance past has the potential to catalyze adjustments than can improve learning.

As we discuss results over the next month, therefore, let's find every opportunity to engage parents, teachers, and school leaders around the multiple measures of school. Building this understanding across communities and systems - of successes and of struggles - is among the most important objectives we can pursue.

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

Superintendent's Conference Call

You are invited to participate in the Superintendents' Conference Call hosted by State Superintendent John White on **Wednesday, December 9, at 10:30 a.m.** You may begin dialing into the call 15 minutes in advance.

To join the Superintendents' Conference Call on December 9, 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) 244-4515
- When prompted, please give the Meeting ID #**1666345**
- You will need to identify yourself in order to be placed into the meeting

Monthly District Planning Call

This district planning call for August is scheduled for **December 9 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Click [here](#) to view the presentation.

The following district supervisors should be in attendance:

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

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

- Meeting Name: **December 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.

New Compass Information System Resources Available

Please forward to all compass contacts and principals

The Department has released new resources to support Principals and Compass Contacts in the use of the **Compass Information System (CIS)**.

Resources, as listed below, are available to support the use of CIS. Click [here](#) to access.

- **Training Deck (New):** for all users
- **Condensed User Guide (New):** LEAs using CIS for data management only
- **Quick Guides (New):** Account Registration, User Account Reset, Employee Roster Updates
- **Complete CIS and CVR User Guide:** organized by user type

Next Steps:

1. Review updated resources and determine which are most applicable in your district
2. Share identified resources with appropriate staff

Please email any questions you may have about CIS or the related resources to your [Network CIS contact](#) or compass@la.gov.

District Charter Application Process

At the December BESE meeting, BESE approved the 2016 common charter application and the 2016 district charter school application process timeline. All local school boards must post district charter school application process information to their websites no later than Wednesday, January 6, 2016.

The Department has prepared resources that will support local school boards in running a compliant district charter school application process. Those resources can be found on the Department's charter application process webpage for districts, [here](#).

In addition to the resources posted on the Department's website, Department staff will host two webinars to guide district administrators through the steps districts must take in order to run a compliant charter school application process. Webinars will be held at the following times. No pre-registration is required.

Tuesday, December 15 at 1:30 p.m.

- To join the meeting go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/districtcharterwebinar1/>
- Meeting Name: District Charter Application Process Webinar #1
- Enter meeting room as a **guest** and provide your **name**
- Audio access: **(800) 832-0736** / Room number: 9492587

Wednesday, December 16 at 10:00 a.m.

- Meeting Name: District Charter Application Process Webinar #2

- To join the meeting go to <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/districtcharterwebinar2/>
- Enter meeting room as a **guest** and provide your **name**
- Audio access: **(800) 832-0736** / Room number: 9492587

For more information about the district charter school application process, please contact David Shepard at david.shepard@la.gov.

High School Opportunities

NCCER Instructor Webinar

The Department will host a webinar to support NCCER Craft Instructors and NCCER certified schools in the proper implementation of NCCER within their schools. The webinar will focus on NCCER instructor trainings and certifications, facility audits, Form 200 submission and approval, and provide dates for upcoming NCCER Instructors trainings/webinars.

All NCCER Instructors are encouraged to participate in one of the following webinars scheduled for:

- **Tuesday, December 15 - 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, December 15 - 3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday, December 17 - 3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Webinar Login Information (*no pre-registration required)

- **Meeting Name:** NCCER Instructor Webinar
- To join the meeting, click <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/nccerinject/>
- Enter meeting room as a **guest** and provide your **name**

For additional information, please email bryan.bertucci@la.gov .

2016 Jump Start Convention

The [2016 Jump Start Convention](#) will be held **Tuesday, January 19, 2016** at the Baton Rouge River Center. Attendees of the convention should include high school principals, district administrators, professional school counselors, Jump Start regional team members, and regional economic development and workforce development organizations.

Please register by **January 8, 2016** at <https://www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/showconference.asp?4318>.

For information about hotels with a block of rooms available, please click [here](#) or at <http://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/jumpstart/2016-jump-start-convention---hotel-list.pdf?sfvrsn=2> .

Please email JumpStart@la.gov with questions.

Course Choice/SCA School Level Information

Registration for spring 2016 Course Choice Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA) funded coursework will open **December 1,**

2015. Each high school has an account on the system to validate and approve course offerings.

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.

Registration for dual enrollment coursework with Louisiana public post-secondary institutions should occur as it has in the past with students registering directly with the post-secondary institution.

Assessment and Accountability

Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call and Webinar

The December Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call and Webinar is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 15, 2015 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.

2015-2016 Testing Schedule

Please forward to all district test coordinators.

To honor LEA requests and accommodate 2015-2016 academic calendars, the Department has expanded the LEAP online assessment window for grades 3 to 8 by one week. Below are testing window details for both paper-based and online tests:

- April 11 to May 6: Online testing for ELA and math
- April 25 to April 29: Paper-based testing for ELA, math, and science
- May 9 to May 13: Social studies field test (optional)

Please send questions to assessment@la.gov.

2015-2016 Assessment Resources

In order to support planning and administration of the 2015-2016 assessments, the Department will be releasing a series of resources over the coming months for district staff, principals and teachers. Below is a list of resources available in the next few weeks:

- [Updated 2015-2016 Calendar](#): **Currently Available**
- [2015-2016 Assessment Checklist](#): **Currently Available**
- [Accessibility and Accommodation Guidelines](#): **Currently Available**
- Tech Readiness Guidance: Available December 9, 2015
- ELA and Math Assessment Guides: Mid-December

- Guide to Social Studies Field Test: Mid-December

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

Data

ACT 833 Potential Eligibility Report Update Available on FTP

The ACT 833 Potential Eligibility Report Update will be provided via FTP on **Friday, December 11**. Files named, "LEACode_LEAName_2015ACT833" will be available on the Data Management FTP site (with usernames ending in @datamgmt) until Monday, January 11th. Please supply this data to your Special Education Director.

Email ldedata@la.gov with questions.

Finance

Approval of FY2015-16 General Fund Budgets

Please forward to Business Managers, Superintendents, and Type 2 and Type 5 Charter School Board Presidents.

Louisiana R.S.17:88 requires that LEA 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. Budgets are due to the Department no later than September 30 each year.

Please click [here](#) for a listing of Charter Schools and City Parish School Districts with approved budgets. LEAs that had their budget approved after September 15, or submitted their budget to the Department after September 30, should take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with R.S.17:88 in the future. If your LEA is not included in the attached lists, you should have received an email regarding the status of your budget.

If you have any questions or need additional information you may contact Jonathan.pitre@la.gov.

Grants Management

Notice to SIG and RTT Indistar Users

Please be advised of changes to the monitoring procedures for recipients of 1003(g) School Improvement Grants (SIG) and Race to the Top - Phase 3 grants (RTT).

- Grant recipients will no longer be required to submit quarterly reports in Indistar. However, grant recipients may continue to create reports to share among their school improvement teams.
- Because quarterly reports will no longer be submitted, the Department will no longer provide coaching comments.
- The Department will continue to use the Indistar platform to collect required federal reports and documentation, such as EDEN data and other documentation (e.g., Assurance of Increased Learning Time [where applicable]).
- The Department will continue to support schools and districts that want to use the Indistar platform for school

improvement, professional development and reporting purposes. Indistar offers many features beyond reporting that grant recipients may want to take advantage of.

Federal Programs

Limited English Proficient Exit Determinations

LEAs must determine which Limited English Proficient (LEP) students have met the definition of English Proficient and can be exited from LEP status. The SIS code of any student exited from LEP status should be changed from (02) to (01) and the student's academic performance should be monitored for two years after being exited. Determinations (and subsequent exiting) should be completed by January 6, 2016. The criteria for determining proficiency can be found in [Bulletin 111, §4001: Proficient in English](#). Please contact either your POC or Melanie Mayeux at melanie.mayeux@la.gov if you have any questions.

Data Collection for Title III Survey - LEADS Portal Now Open

The Louisiana Department of Education must report specific data from all districts receiving Title III funds. Title III districts/security coordinators must complete the Title III Survey (TTS) for the 2014-2015 school year available at this [link](#). The LEADSPortal (TTS) is now open and will remain open until **December 11, 2015**.

Guidelines for completing the survey are found in the [Title III Survey Manual](#).

If any additional information is required, please contact your NCLB point of contact ([POC](#)).

Data Collection of Annual Counts for Title I, Part D

The Louisiana Department of Education must report Annual Counts for Title I, Part D in order to determine funding for its neglected and delinquent facilities under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Title I Directors/security coordinators can enter the data for the 2015-2016 school year (October) at this [link](#). The LEADSPortal (TID - Annual Counts) will be open from **November 9, 2015** through **December 14, 2015** for entering data.

If any additional information is required, please contact your NCLB point of contact ([POC](#)) for further assistance.

Talent

Connecting the Dots with Stem Academy Training

District and school level administrators have the opportunity to attend a **Connecting the Dots with STEM Academy** workshop sponsored by the Louisiana Association of Principals, National Association of Secondary School Principals, and Discovery Education.

In the workshop, participants will:

- Immerse themselves in STEM teaching and learning
- Explore STEM resources
- Experience instructional strategies that promote STEM skill building

- Examine data about future STEM career opportunities in Louisiana
- Begin creating their own STEM definition and strategy

Two full-day workshops are offered:

- **January 13** in Baton Rouge
- **January 14** in Minden

The deadline to register is December 15, 2015. Click [here](#) for more information or to register.

Pre-Recorded Certification Webinar Available - Out-of-State Certification Policy and Application Process

A pre-recorded webinar for Human Resource/Personnel Directors and their staff about Out-of-State certification policies and application processes is now available for viewing. The webinar is in the Talent Office iTunes Folder on the Department's website.

Instructions for Accessing the Webinar: (This is not a live webinar and can be accessed at your convenience.)

If iTunes is not installed, go to itunes.apple.com and follow the instructions for downloading and installing the software. Click on this link: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/itunes-u/talent/id945182458?mt=10>
Click on View in iTunes next to the recording name you intend to view
Click on the recording name when iTunes comes up
The recording will begin playing

Please share this information with all Human Resource/Personnel Directors and appropriate staff.

Contact Barbara.burke@la.gov with questions.

Policy

December BESE Meeting Summary

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met on December 2 and approved a number of bulletin revisions and Department recommendations. A summary of the approvals that directly impact the activities of local education agencies may be accessed [here](#).

Special Education

Act 833 Potential Eligibility Report- Update

This week the Department will release an updated version of the Act 833 potential eligibility report to each LEA via their FTP site. This report contains the past three years of assessment data (12-13, 13-14, & 14-15) for current 9th grade students with disabilities receiving special education services. LEAs should use this report to determine if any additional students are eligible for an alternative pathway to a diploma based on 14-15 assessment results.

Contact specialeducation@la.gov with any question.

Student Programs

Title I, Part A - Annual Comparability Report

Title I - Comparability requires that local education agencies (LEAs) be able to document that the services provided with state and local funds in Title I schools are comparable to those provided in non-Title I schools in the district or are substantially comparable for districts with all Title I schools. Click [here](#) for comparability instructions. Click [here](#) to access the comparability workbook. If you have questions or need technical assistance, please contact your network point of contact.

Submit complete comparability reports to Madeline.Swift@la.gov by Friday, **December 11, 2015**.

Other

Upcoming School Garden Cost Reimbursement Program to School Districts

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) will be administering a school garden cost reimbursement program in early January 2016. The purpose is to plant and sustain fruit, vegetables and/or flower gardens in 15 Louisiana schools. If you have any questions or need additional information, contact Jeremy Hendrix or Deana Vickry at 225-952-8155 or by email at jhendrix@ldaf.la.gov or dvickry@ldaf.la.gov. For more information on the School Garden Cost Reimbursement Program, click [here](#).

Education in the News

[Grants support students with disabilities](#)

[BESE approves new policy requiring high school seniors to apply for financial aid for college](#)

LDOE Contacts

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