

Toya Porter

From: Toya Porter
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2016 9:43 AM
To: Toya Porter
Subject: Important News for School Districts

From: John White [<mailto:ldoecommunications@la.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 5:29 PM
To: Judy Stracener
Subject: Important News for School Districts

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



October 18, 2016

Superintendent's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Yesterday the [Accountability Commission](#) held another [public discussion](#) of the [draft ESSA framework](#) issued by the Department two weeks ago. I'm pleased to say that the draft framework was issued in order to prompt the kind of rich dialogue of student needs and academic plans that the Commission conducted yesterday. I hope that you'll be able to attend further discussions of the framework in the weeks ahead. You can find a schedule [here](#).

Over the course of the next several weeks, the Department will also make available reports that include academic results from the 2015-2016 school year.

The first series of reports, to be provided first as drafts only to [lead agencies](#) starting the week of October 24, will detail results for the "learning year" undertaken by early childhood communities, centers, and schools last year. This year's practice performance profiles for early childhood centers provide detail [CLASS](#) ratings and other factors indicating the strengths and challenges of given centers and of early childhood services in a given parish or community as a whole.

Beginning in mid-November, the Department will hold individual discussions with each superintendent regarding school and district report cards. Final report cards and practice performance profiles will be released prior to Thanksgiving.

In both cases, these reports mark another stage of planning and improvement processes for this school year and for future

years. The reports will be followed by guidance from the Department, for example, regarding curriculum selection and professional development that, done appropriately, will contribute to future successes. I look forward to the many insights that can be gleaned from an objective look at what is happening in our classrooms.

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**

[Current District Support Calendar](#)

District Support

December 2016 Collaborations

To ensure district level supervisors get the information and support they need, the Department will host an in-person collaboration for supervisors in lieu of an in-person event for Teacher Leaders. The principal collaborations will take place as planned.

Dates and Locations:

- December 9: Baton Rouge
- December 12: Jefferson
- December 13: Lafayette
- December 15: North Louisiana (TBD)

December Collaboration Topics:

- 2015-2016 results & school letter grades
- 2016-2017 assessments
- Tech readiness and digital literacy
- Special populations including ELL

The Department may also host webinars for Teacher Leaders in December and will share more information about the dates and topics for those in the November District Planning Call and through the Teacher Leader newsletter.

Please refer to the [district support calendar](#) for a full list of training dates and locations. Email louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Standards Alignment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities and English Language Learning Needs

Please forward to curriculum, special education and ELL supervisors.

The Department worked with stakeholders to develop aligned learning expectations for students with significant disabilities and English language learning needs. Stakeholders are encouraged to review the [draft proposals](#) and **submit feedback by November 18, 2016**.

The Department will host two informational webinars to discuss the framework for each draft.

- Tuesday, November 1, 2016- 2:30 p.m. -3:30 p.m.
- Thursday, November 3, 2016- 2 p.m. -3 p.m.

Webinar Login Information (no pre-registration required)

- Conference Number(s): 1-855-240-2575
- Participant pin code: 60265090
- To join the meeting click <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/sped/>

Email louisianastandards@la.gov.

Community Eligibility Feeding Program Information for Flood Impacted Districts

Please forward to school food supervisors, school business officials, and data coordinators

As LEAs recover from the impact of flooding, they may be considering the option to participate in (or recertify their rate for) the

Community Eligibility Program (CEP). Under the CEP, LEAs are able to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students in a single school, a group of schools, or all schools within the LEA without the burden of collecting and processing school meal applications to make individual eligibility determinations.

With more students receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Disaster SNAP) and qualifying as homeless or other indicators that directly certify students to receive free school meals, LEAs may now qualify for CEP or qualify at a higher meal reimbursement rate.

For more information and to determine your eligibility to participate, please see the [CEP guidance](#). For questions, please contact [Judy Stracener](#).

English Learner Program Handbook for District and Charter School Administrators Released

The new [English Learner Program Handbook](#) for district and charter school leaders has been released. The handbook provides guidance regarding obligations to English Language Learners and includes information on topics such as:

- Identification English Language Learners (ELs) and Assessing English proficiency;
- Providing ELs with a language assistance program and ensuring meaningful access;
- Addressing ELs with disabilities;
- Meaningful communications with EL parents; and
- Title III requirements for districts that receive this funding

For more information, please contact your POC, [Melanie Mayeux](#), or [Beverly Diaz](#).

Business English and Technical Writing Guides

Please share with Chief Academic Officers and curriculum supervisors.

At the request of the field, the Department developed course guides for two of the Jumpstart pathway English courses. The guidance includes an overview of the course, state course codes, suggested topics to be taught, resource links, and assessment guidance. Course guidance can be found on the [ELA Planning Resources page](#) for the following courses:

- [Business English](#)
- [Technical Writing](#)

For more information, contact us at classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov.

Social Studies Key Themes

Please share with Chief Academic Officers and curriculum supervisors.

The goal in social studies is to create literate citizens who are critical consumers of information they read, hear, and observe. To accomplish this goal, students must:

1. use sources regularly to learn content;
2. make connections among people, events, and ideas across time and place; and
3. express informed opinions supported by evidence from sources and outside knowledge.

The Department developed and released key theme documents for grades 3-8 to show how the social studies grade level expectations are connected to help teachers prepare for the new assessments.

Access the [Social Studies Planning Resources page](#) to view the key themes for the following grades: [Grade 3](#), [Grade 4](#), [Grade 5](#), [Grade 6](#), [Grade 7](#) and [Grade 8](#).

For more information, please contact us at classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov.

Assessment & Accountability

LEAP 2025 Assessment Guides Released

Please share with curriculum supervisors, district test coordinators, principals and teachers.

Assessment guides, providing detailed information about the **LEAP 2025 assessments for ELA and math in grades 3-8**, are **now available** in the [Assessment Guidance library](#). Updated guides with sample test questions will be released in mid-November.

Updated LEAP 2025 Social Studies Assessment Guides are also now available in the [Assessment Guidance library](#). The update includes session testing times, computer-based testing administration policies, and information about additional resources.

Please email assessment@la.gov with questions.

District Test Coordinator Reminders

Please share with district test and technology coordinators and data managers.

Assessment Support and Training:

- **Weekly Office Hours:** Tuesdays at 1:00 PM
 - Webinar Link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/dtc/>
 - Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name.
 - Call-In Information: (646) 307-1380; meeting room #951155484
 - This week's topic: Adding user and user permissions to the EOC administration

Assessment Administration:

- **Kindergarten Readiness:** The [DSC web application](#) will be available until October 31, 2016. After October 31, LEAs that wish to retrieve data will be able to do so until the end of the 2016-2017 school year by contacting Red-e-Set Grow at 888-386-3822.

Tech Readiness:

- **Education Technology Calls:** The Department will begin hosting monthly education technology calls in October. The recommended audience for these calls include curriculum directors, technology directors, instructional support leaders, curriculum directors.

October Webinar Information:

- Date and Time: Thursday, October 27 at 1:00 p.m.
- Topics: education technology resources, upcoming education technology opportunities, and best practices for authentically incorporating technology into instruction
- Webinar Link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/edconnect/>
- Call-In Information: (646) 307-1380; meeting room # 951155484

Additional dates have been added to the [District Planning Calendar](#).

- **E-Rate In-Person Training for FY 2016-17 Filing Window:** In order to assist and facilitate districts, charters, and schools with filing for 2017- 2018 E-Rate funding, in-person trainings will be conducted in late October and early November as noted below. District technology coordinators, E-Rate coordinators and procurement staff are invited to attend to learn more about program changes, new rule interpretations and changes in the EPC application software

system. Register for the following events in [Coursewhere](#).

- October 21: Baton Rouge
- October 27: Monroe
- October 28: Rapides
- November 2: Jefferson Davis

Please contact edtech@la.gov with any questions.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with any questions.

High School Opportunities

New Jump Start Video Network and Automated Text Response System

Please share with principals and counselors.

The Department released the new [Jump Start Video Network](#) to provide students, parents and educators with direct access to information on Jump Start from their phones, iPad or laptop, such as pathways offered in every high school in Louisiana. To access the videos, **text "JUMPSTART" to 99008** or visit the [Jump Start Video Network website](#).

The Department also announced a [contest](#) for students to create videos for the Jump Start Video Network showcasing their local pathway opportunities. Contest winners will earn grant awards for their schools to buy new video equipment and computers.

Email jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

2016-2017 Pupil Progression Plans Due

The Pupil Progression Plan (PPP) is the comprehensive plan developed and adopted by each LEA that establishes policies and guidelines for determining whether students are promoted to the next grade, retained in the current grade, or advanced (or skipped) to higher grades. Pupil Progression Plans also outline the criteria for high school graduation.

The deadline for submitting has been extended. All plans must be submitted in pdf format by October 28, 2016 to PPP@la.gov.

For additional information or questions regarding the [2016-2017 Pupil Progression Plan Template](#), please contact PPP@la.gov.

Jobs for America's Graduates-Louisiana (JAG-LA)

The Department will host the JAG Student Leadership Conference at the Cajun Dome in Lafayette. Due to the large number of participants, the conference will be held for all JAG Programs from the southern part of the state on Wednesday, November 2, 2016. JAG-LA Programs from the northern part of the state will attend Thursday, November 3, 2016. Both conferences will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m and conclude by 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be included.

For more information please contact [Dianna Keller](#).

2016-2017 Individual Student Planning (Individual Graduation Plan and Diploma Pathway Selection)

The Department will host a webinar to support professional school counselors with the Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) and diploma pathway selection process. The webinar will review the [guidance document](#) released to assist professional middle and high school counselors in the annual development and review of the IGP.

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

- **Date and Time:** Thursday, October 20 - 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 pm
- **Meeting Name:** 2016 - 2017 Individual Graduation Plan and Diploma Pathway Selection
- **To join the meeting,** click <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/igp2017/>

For further assistance, please contact Martha.moore@la.gov.

2016 Department Counselor Collaboratives

The 2016 Counselor Collaboratives scheduled below will focus on

- financial aid access for all students; and
- implementation of appropriate student graduation pathways

Participants are asked to register in [Coursewhere](#). For questions regarding registration, please email JumpStart@la.gov.

Date	Network	Location	Time
October 19	A	Ouachita Parish Student Support Services, 800 Claiborne Street, West Monroe	1:00 p.m.
October 20	A	Avoyelles Parish Media Center, 136 S. Fair Street, Marksville	1:00 p.m.

Talent

2018 Teacher and Principal of the Year Nominations and Application Process Open

The 2018 Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year nominations and application process is now open. Information, timeline, and materials may be found on the [Department's website](#). District and charter organizations may submit up to three candidates, one per division, for both Teacher and Principal of the Year, to participate in the state-level process. State-level nominees will submit their application online. Those applications are due by January 19, 2017.

Part of the selection process at both the district and state-level is to include recommendations from various stakeholders. This year, teachers, principals, district employees, parents, colleagues, and community members are able to submit recommendations online. Recommendations are due by October 31, and will be sent to local school districts for their consideration. If you know an outstanding teacher or school leader, log into the [nominations portal](#) and select Nominations from the dropdown menu. The portal works best when Chrome is used.

An informational webinar is scheduled for Teacher and Principal of the Year coordinators and charter team members.

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

- **Date and Time:** Tuesday, October 18 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.,
- **To join the meeting on:** <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/tpoy3/>
- Select the default "Dial-out" option (1) to hear the call over your phone.

- Select the "Using microphone" (Computer device- option 3) option if you'd like to view and listen via your computer.

For questions, please email excellenteducators@la.gov.

Believe and Prepare Workshop Opportunities

Louisiana is committed to prepare every educator under a mentor educator through a professional residency, and the Believe and Prepare Community has been paving the way since 2014. New for 2016-2017, the Department will host a series of meetings that will feature leading experts in the field of teacher preparation on the following dates.

- **Monday, October 31**
- **Monday, February 13**
- **Monday, May 1**

For the October meeting, preparation provider leaders and their district partners should attend together to learn about the funding opportunities and understand the tools and resources available to support application development. All meetings will be held at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge.

The deadline to RSVP is Friday, October 22. Click [here](#) to reserve your seat today!

For more information please contact BelieveandPrepare@la.gov.

Special Education

Monthly Special Education Leader Webinar

The Department will hold its monthly webinar for LEA directors and supervisors of special education on Wednesday, October 26, at 2:00 p.m. **Please note this is a date change.**

Topics will include upcoming deadlines, updates, guidance, and training opportunities.

Webinar Login Information: (no pre-registration required)

- Meeting Name: Special Ed. Policy
- Webinar Link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/sped/>
- Enter the meeting room as a guest and provide your name
- Select the "listen only mode. If you are listening in from a phone and not using a computer, the audio conference details are:

- Toll access number (Toll): 1-646-307-1380
- Toll free access number (Toll Free): 1-855-240-2575
- Participant pin code: 60265090

Once you log into the conference site, you can download the presentation. It will also be available in the Special Education Library after the event.

Please email specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Guidance for Implementing Act 303: Diplomas for Former Students with Disabilities

Act 303 (2016) allows certain former students with disabilities to petition their local school board to determine if they are eligible to receive high school diplomas. A [guide](#) has been developed to support administrators of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) with developing procedures to effectively implement this law and includes information related to appropriate deadlines and procedures outlined in the law. You may contact [Rebecca Hanberry](#) with questions about implementation of Act 303

(2016).

Policy

October BESE Meeting Summary

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met on October 11-12 and approved a number of bulletin revisions and recommendations. A summary of the approvals that directly impact the activities of local education agencies may be accessed [here](#).

Data

2016 ACT PLAN Letters

Please forward to all FTP Coordinators and Secondary Directors and/or Coordinators.

The Department has provided each LEA with a template and guidance for generating a set of ACT PLAN letters for dissemination to 11th grade students and parents. **These files, titled LEAcode_LEAname_2016_ACTPLANLetters, are available in the Data Management FTP through October 21.** FTP coordinators should share these files with Secondary Directors and/or Coordinators.

ACT PLAN letters highlight individual student's Advanced Placement potential and/or student's career interest aligned with Jump Start career pathways. These letters are developed based on student performance on the PLAN assessment as well as student responses to the career World of Work inventory.

For additional information, please contact CollegeReadiness@la.gov. For FTP issues, contact SystemSupport@la.gov.

Funding

Payments for \$20 Million Appropriation "Outside" the MFP Formula

Please forward to business managers and financial officials.

The Legislature, through Act 14 of 2016, provided \$20 million to local public school districts and charter schools outside of the MFP appropriation. The week of October 24th, the first quarter payment for the \$20 million appropriation "outside" of the MFP Formula will be distributed to LEAs. After October, payments of these funds will be released monthly and will be distributed on or about the 25th of each month. The payment amounts for each LEA are provided on the [MFP homepage](#).

Contact [Melanie Ruiz](#) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Other

Health Notice: Mump Outbreak in Arkansas

Please share with principals and school-based health centers.

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) is investigating a large outbreak of mumps in northwest Arkansas. So far there have been 476 confirmed cases of mumps, mostly in school-aged children and college students in the northwest area of the state.

This information has been shared with the Department to advise north Louisiana schools to be on alert for the signs and symptoms of mumps given our proximity to this outbreak. If school nurses suspect mumps in a student and have questions about (or how to arrange) testing through the State laboratory please contact the Louisiana Immunization Program at (504) 568-2600 or the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Hotline at (800) 256-2748.

For more information, visit the [Mumps information page](#).

School Based Medicaid Handbook Revised September 2016

The [School Based Medicaid Handbook](#), revised October 2016, is now available in the [School Policy library](#) under "School Climate and Health Services" and on the [School-Based Medicaid Services homepage](#). The handbook provides information and technical assistance for LEAs seeking reimbursement for eligible school health services.

If you have any questions about the handbook or School Based Medicaid Services, please contact Janice Zube via email at Janice.Zube@la.gov.

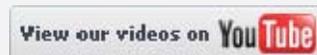
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