

Report to Developmental Disabilities Council

January 2025

Teacher Leader Summit, June 2025

The 2025 Teacher Leader Summit will be held June 10 - 12, 2025 at the Ernest N. Memorial Convention Center in New Orleans, LA. The theme this year is A New Story for Louisiana Education. Educators are writing a new story for Louisiana education. Our state no longer finds itself at the bottom of national rankings. We've made strong progress over the past few years, and have earned our highest marks ever on prominent national rankings. Louisiana is poised to accelerate and move to our next level of success.

The Teacher Leader Summit is an annual professional development conference which brings together Louisiana birth to grade 12 educators and content experts who inspire, innovate, and impact meaningful growth for every student. Educators participating in the event will share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the 2025-2026 school year. Sessions specific to special education will include instructional inclusive best practices, dyslexia support, modifying and accommodating high quality instruction for students with significant cognitive disabilities, pupil appraisal support, panel sessions from top growth systems for students with disabilities, behavior supports, literacy supports, and much more.

External presentation [applications](#) are being accepted now. We encourage educators, school leaders, and partners to submit their best ideas and strategies that promote excellence in education. Join us in shaping the future and empowering Louisiana's students to achieve their highest potential. The deadline for submissions is January 31, 2025. Don't miss the opportunity to contribute to this dynamic professional learning experience!

- [Teacher Leader Summit 2025 Presenter Submission Guide](#)
- [Teacher Leader Summit 2025 External Proposal Application](#)

Registration information will be released soon. Registration for this event will be on a first-come, first-served basis. As space is limited, it is encouraged to register early.

FFY25 IDEA Funding Application

Each year the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) submits a grant application to the U.S. Department of Education for funding through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The LDOE will begin seeking feedback from members of various Special Education stakeholder communities in late January and February. This initial feedback will help the LDOE better understand what activities the public views as important as we develop the comprehensive IDEA grant application for the 2025-2026 school year. Another round of input and feedback will be gathered once a draft application is available.

LRP Professional Learning Modules

The Department is releasing a series of statewide professional learning modules for educators. Topics will include IEP compliance, Evaluations and Reevaluations, Measurable Annual Goals, Legal Requirements and Practical Considerations for the Use of Seclusion and Restraint, Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavior Intervention Plans, Extended School Year, Behavior and Students with Autism, and Dispute Resolution.

SEAP Update

The Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) met in December. Topics of discussion included the State Systemic Improvement Plan, and Pupil Appraisal, Eligibility and Evaluation. The January SEAP meeting set for January 22 was cancelled due to state office closures for the inclement wintry weather. The LDOE team is working with the panel and considering feasibility and availability of rescheduling, but there is a meeting scheduled for March 26, 2025.

SEAP Meeting Dates
March 26, 2025
June 18, 2025

2024 Fall Reading Report

The Department released the [2024 Fall Reading Report](#) and [school system data](#) online. Here are some of the highlights.

- The overall K-3 proficiency rate is up 2.3 percentage points.
- First grade improved by 4 points, second grade by 3.8, and third grade by 2.4.
- Student cohort data increased by 9.3 percentage points, with last year's kindergarteners leading the way.
- Last year's kindergarteners improved by over 20 points this year as first graders, last year's first graders improved by 8.6 points as second graders, and last year's second graders improved by 3.3 points as third graders.

The report also includes literacy data for students with disabilities. First grade students with disabilities improved 1.7 points and specific cohorts of students improved from last year to this year including last year's kindergarteners and first graders.

The Department remains focused on inclusive best instructional practices for students with disabilities. Recently the U.S. Department of Education featured our inclusive practices work in two publications: [Using Title II, Part A Funds to Strategically Support Educator Recruitment, Retention, Professional Learning, and Improved Student Outcomes](#) (December 2024) and [Building and Sustaining Inclusive Educational Practices Aligned With The Elementary And Secondary Education Act OF 1965 \(ESEA\) And Part B Of The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#) (January 2025).

Events Coming Up with Some of our Partners

There are several free events coming up that may interest parents and educators of students with disabilities.

For Parents:

Strategies to Manage ADD & ADHD

Families Helping Families is hosting a virtual event for parents or caregivers to learn about ADD and ADHD and strategies to manage children with these diagnoses. The webinar will occur on January 17, 2025 from 12:00 - 1:30 pm. [Register](#) today.

For Educators:

From Pages to Possibilities: Creating Adaptive Books for Every Learner

LA-AEM is hosting an in-person workshop on incorporating low, mid, and high-tech assistive technology to transform children's story books into adaptive books designed to teach vocabulary, phonemic awareness, reading comprehension, and written expression. The workshop will occur on February 21, 2025 from 10:00 - 12:00 pm at the Bossier Instructional Center- Building T-23 (2719 Airline Drive, Bossier City, LA 71111). [Register](#) today.

Functional Vision Assessment

LA-AEM is hosting a two-day in-person event for anyone involved in assessing students with visual impairments. The learner will gain the latest assessment strategies for students with visual impairments, high-quality support for these diverse learners, and enhancement of skills and knowledge in assessing students with visual impairments. The event will be held February 25-16, 2025 at the LA-AEM Building, 2888 Brightside Drive, Baton Rouge, LA. [Register](#) today.