

Dual Enrollment Task Force

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Louisiana State University Eunice
Dr. Anthony Mumphrey Center Room A-127
2048 Johnson Hwy
Eunice, LA 70535

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed called the June meeting of the Dual Enrollment Task Force to order at 1:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Yari Sarduy called the roll and a quorum was established.

Members Present	Affiliation
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed	Commissioner of Higher Education
Mr. Marcus Thomas (designee)	Governor's Office
Dr. Ernise Singleton	Louisiana Department of Education
Ms. Carol Tall (designee)	Louisiana Association of School Superintendents
Dr. Stella Arabie	Louisiana Association of Principals
Mr. Preston Castille	State Board of Elementary & Secondary Education
Mr. Barry Erwin	Leaders for a Better Louisiana
Ms. Virginia Maze (designee)	Louisiana Association for Career & Technical Education
Ms. Katrice Antoine	Louisiana Association of Educators
Ms. Julie Stokes	Ellevate Louisiana
Members Absent	Affiliation
Dr. Janet Pope	Louisiana School Boards Association
Ms. Caroline Roemer	Louisiana Public Charter School Association
Ms. Robyn Bentley	Louisiana School Counselor Association
Dr. Jeannine O'Rourke	College and Career Readiness Commission
Dr. Erin Bendily	Pelican Institute for Public Policy

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 12, 2026, MINUTES

Dr. Reed asked for a motion to approve the February 12, 2026 minutes.

On motion of Dr. Stella Arabie, seconded by Dr. Ernise Singleton, the minutes were approved by the Task Force.

REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2026 UPDATE

Dr. Reed provided an overview of the 2026 Regular Legislative Session, highlighting legislation related to the work of the Dual Enrollment Task Force. She discussed Act 438, authored by Representative Ken Brass, which requires the establishment of a statewide dual enrollment application process and directs the state's postsecondary management boards, in consultation with the Board of Regents, to adopt a uniform dual enrollment tuition rate by the beginning of the 2027–28 academic year. Dr. Reed noted that the legislation implements recommendations previously established by the Task Force and supports greater consistency and access to dual enrollment opportunities across the state.

Dr. Reed also reviewed Act 794, which expands pathways for TOPS Tech eligibility by allowing students to qualify through the successful completion of nine credit hours of dual enrollment coursework or through equivalent achievements, including Advanced Placement (AP) coursework or industry-based credentials. Dr. Reed explained that the legislation recognizes dual enrollment as an important pathway to postsecondary education and workforce preparation. Dr. Reed recognized Representative Brass for authoring both pieces of legislation and for his continued support for expanding dual enrollment opportunities for Louisiana students. She also recognized Task Force member Dr. Erin Bendily for her testimony during the legislative session in support of these efforts. Task Force members also discussed additional legislation related to career awareness and workforce development, emphasizing the importance of exposing students to career opportunities at earlier grade levels through partnerships with educators, employers, and community organizations.

Dr. Susannah Craig, Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success at the Louisiana Board of Regents and Interim Executive Director of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), then provided an update on recent federal changes to the 529 Education Savings Plans. Dr. Craig explained that eligible 529 funds may now be used to cover dual enrollment expenses and certain standardized testing costs, providing families with additional flexibility in supporting students' postsecondary preparation. Task Force members discussed the potential impact of these changes on increasing awareness of available financial resources and reducing barriers to dual enrollment participation.

LOUISIANA DUAL ENROLLMENT SPOTLIGHT: LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY EUNICE

Dr. Reed introduced Dr. Nancee Sorenson, Chancellor of Louisiana State University Eunice (LSUE), who welcomed Task Force members to campus and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to highlight LSUE's dual enrollment efforts. Chancellor Sorenson discussed the institution's commitment to serving students throughout the region by expanding access to affordable postsecondary opportunities through strong partnerships with local school systems and community stakeholders.

Dr. Reed then introduced Ms. Alisha Fontenot, Director of LSUE's Academy and Dual Enrollment, along with Dr. Theresa Ellender and Mr. Gregory Campbell of the St. Landry Parish School System, to provide an overview of LSUE's collaborative dual enrollment programs. Ms. Fontenot discussed the continued growth of dual enrollment at LSUE, highlighting partnerships with local school districts that allow students to earn college credit while completing high school. Ms. Fontenot described collaborative advising efforts, academic support services, and

intentional coordination between secondary and postsecondary partners to ensure students are prepared for college-level coursework.

Ms. Fontenot further highlighted the variety of academic and workforce-focused opportunities available through LSUE's dual enrollment program and discussed the continuing strong performance of students participating in the Academy. She emphasized that many students are succeeding in college-level coursework while still in high school and are gaining early exposure to postsecondary expectations. Dr. Ellender discussed the partnership between LSUE and the St. Landry Parish School System, noting the collaborative efforts that support student success. She also addressed funding challenges associated with dual enrollment and explained that program costs can limit participation for some students, noting that continued investment is needed to expand access.

Dr. Reed thanked Chancellor Sorenson, Ms. Fontenot, Dr. Ellender, and Mr. Campbell for their presentations and for hosting the Task Force meeting at LSUE.

DISCUSSION ACTIVITY: WORKSHOP REFLECTIONS AND FUTURE PRIORITIES FOR LOUISIANA DUAL ENROLLMENT

Ms. Mellynn Baker facilitated a discussion activity focused on identifying future priorities for the Dual Enrollment Task Force and the development of additional recommendations for the next annual Dual Enrollment Report. Ms. Baker reviewed the progress made on recommendations adopted in January 2024, noting that several have been implemented. These include statewide policy initiatives, in-person convenings, the launch of LaDualEnrollment.com, the pilot of the statewide dual enrollment application, and the launch of three dual enrollment teacher credential programs.

Task Force members and public guests participated in facilitated breakout group discussions to reflect on current successes and identify opportunities for continued improvement. The following topics were discussed with groups capturing the following potential recommendations:

Technical Dual Enrollment and Workforce Alignment

Participants discussed:

- Opportunities to strengthen technical dual enrollment and workforce alignment, including exploring a crosswalk between Validated Skills and Learning and dual enrollment credit to better align workforce learning with postsecondary credit opportunities.
- Expanding the use of Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) to recognize workforce learning and experiences for college credit. Additional conversation focused on technical dual enrollment funding and strategies to better connect workforce training with postsecondary credential attainment.

Student Access and Success

Participants discussed:

- The need to review dual enrollment funding mechanisms, including the Supplemental Course Allocation (SCA) and the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP), as a future topic for Task Force consideration.
- Pursuing a more uniform pricing structure for dual enrollment and increasing awareness of dual enrollment opportunities among instructional leadership teams, highlighting the unintended consequences of limited funding and its impact on student access and participation.

Advising, Navigation, and Student Experience

Participants discussed:

- Adding a desired major question to the ApplyDE Louisiana application in order to support advising efforts.
- Establishing more consistent statewide language related to dual enrollment through opportunities to expand school counselor-focused professional development and convenings.
- Enhancing LaDualEnrollment.com to serve as a more comprehensive resource for students, families, and educators.

Innovation and the Future of Dual Enrollment

Participants discussed:

- Innovation and the future of dual enrollment, including the potential development of statewide guidance on artificial intelligence (AI) and technology policies such as secure remote proctoring.
- Expanding the use of dual enrollment to support career exploration and soft skill development.
- Conducting return-on-investment research on dual enrollment student outcomes and recognizing the importance of providing multiple postsecondary pathways to meet the diverse needs of Louisiana students.

Each group shared feedback on strategies to strengthen dual enrollment across Louisiana, including increasing student awareness, improving affordability and access, enhancing communication between K-12 and postsecondary partners, expanding workforce-aligned opportunities, and supporting consistent implementation of statewide initiatives. The feedback gathered during the workshop will be used to inform a draft set of recommendations for the Task Force's review at a future meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were presented.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Reed thanked members and guests for their participation and thoughtful discussion throughout the meeting. She expressed appreciation to Chancellor Sorenson, Ms. Fontenot, and the LSUE staff for their hospitality in hosting the Task Force meeting. Dr. Reed announced that the next meeting of the Dual Enrollment Task Force is scheduled for Thursday, November 5, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., with the location to be announced. Dr. Reed asked for a motion to adjourn.

On motion of Dr. Ernise Singleton, seconded by Dr. Stella Arabie, the meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

ADDITIONAL GUESTS

Haden Lafleur - SOWELA

Jeremy Ryder - SOWELA

Alice Wolfe - LSU A&M

Caitlyn Bender - LSU A&M

Jason Wolfe - LSU A&M

Madison Owens - McNeese State

Melissa Ehlinger - YouthForce NOLA

David Shepard - YouthForce NOLA