

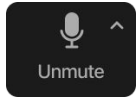
Louisiana Models of Excellence

Overview

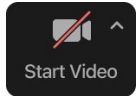


2025-2026 School Year

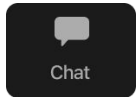
Zoom Meeting Preparation



- Please make sure your phone or computer is muted to minimize background noise.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Mute.”



- Please make sure you have turned off your camera to save bandwidth and prevent any connectivity issues.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Stop Video.”



- Please submit questions during the presentation in the “Chat” function located on the bottom of your screen.

If you require an interpreter or have other accessibility needs for future LDOE meetings, please contact LDOEcommunications@la.gov.



Agenda

- Introduction to Models of Excellence
- Meet Past Models of Excellence Recipients
- Timeline
- Nomination Process
- Models of Excellence Awards Ceremony
- Questions



Introduction to Models of Excellence



Louisiana Models of Excellence Overview

- The [Louisiana Models of Excellence](#) initiative was created in an effort to acknowledge, honor, and spotlight schools serving as exemplary models for implementing the Department's educational priorities that leads to the advancement of student success. This initiative has three main goals.
 - To celebrate excellence in Louisiana schools
 - To share stories of success and provide models for others to see
 - To create high-impact partnerships across school systems

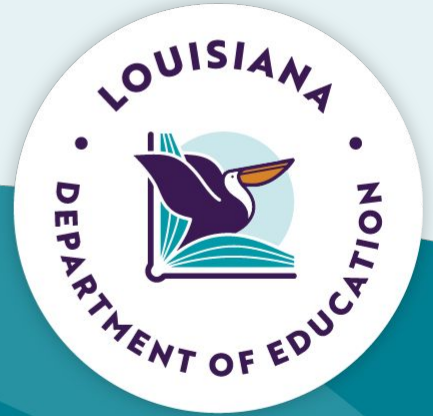


Criteria

- What does it take to be recognized as a Model of Excellence?
 - An exemplar for outstanding or innovative strategies
 - Addressing a priority focus area
 - Early childhood leading to kindergarten readiness
 - Literacy instruction aligned to the Science of Reading
 - Math instruction from foundational to advanced skills
 - Opportunities ensuring a meaningful high school experience
 - An effective teacher for every student
 - Expand educational choice for students and families
 - Advancement of student learning
 - Rapid Improvement



Meet Past Models of Excellence Recipients



Phillis Wheatley Community Schools (FirstLine Schools)

- Phillis Wheatley Community School's leadership team and staff are improving literacy outcomes through dedicating an instructional coach to literacy, tracking student data, and a commitment to professional growth through their Early Literacy initiative.
- Learn more about the [Early Literacy initiative](#).



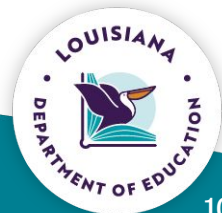
East Feliciana Public Schools

- East Feliciana Public Schools is committed to accelerating learning recovery by providing students with additional opportunities for learning and growing through the summer months. Their summer learning program, EF Accelerate, focused on providing deeply engaging experiences, strong academics, and a balance of enrichment activities and field trips.
- Learn more about [EF Accelerate](#).



Rapides Parish Schools

- Rapides Parish Schools is guiding young people on a path to becoming accomplished teachers through a district level strategy for implementing a pre-educator pathway, collaborating with a university to offer dual enrollment classes and providing clinical experiences for future educators.
- Learn more about their [Pre-Educator Pathway](#).



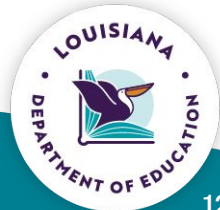
Mansfield Elementary School (DeSoto Parish)

- Mansfield Elementary School is making great gains in literacy with their initiative for literacy interventions, Strategic Literacy Focus. Along with incorporating a "Whatever I Need (WIN)" literacy program, the leadership team and staff ensure all students receive intervention and extensions based on individual student needs.
- Learn more about [Strategic Literacy Focus](#).



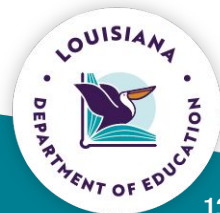
Lafourche Parish School District

- Lafourche Parish School District was named as a Models of Excellence recipient for the success of their innovative science initiative, Making the Impossible Possible Through Science, and their perseverance through Hurricane Ida. Their approach to science includes strong instruction and engagement that's even adaptable for emergency shifts to virtual instruction.
- Learn more about [Making the Impossible Possible Through Science](#).



Calcasieu Parish School Board

- Calcasieu Parish School Board is ensuring students at every high school have access to challenging courses taught by highly qualified teachers. Their Virtual Instruction Program (VIP) provides students at all high schools with access to high quality courses such as STEM, Dual Enrollment, and Advanced Placement.
- Learn more about their [Virtual Instruction Program](#).



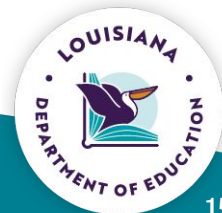
Central Community School System

- Central Community School System is ensuring every student is on track to a professional career, college degree, or service through their Response to Intervention (RTI) program, Wildcats W.I.N.
- Learn more about [Wildcats W.I.N.](#)

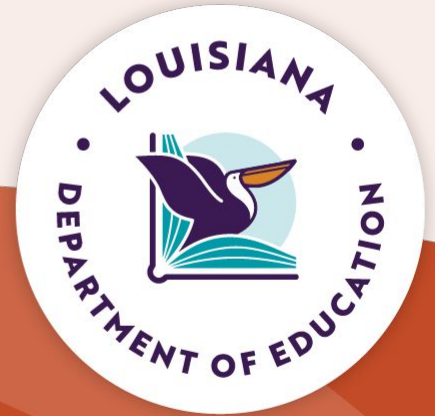


West Feliciana Parish Schools

- West Feliciana Parish Schools is strategically addressing gaps in learning for literacy and math through high-dosage tutoring.
- Learn more about their [High-Dosage Tutoring initiative](#).



Timeline



Timeline

- August-Begin accepting nominations
 - While the portal will remain open, nominations need to be submitted by February 2, 2026 to be considered for the 2025-2026 school year
- September-May
 - Interviews on Zoom may be held with schools/school systems
 - Selected schools/school systems will be notified
 - Assembly planning call(s) with recipient will be conducted-3 weeks
 - Hold award ceremony and learning walks-1 day



Nomination Process



Nomination Process

- Step One
 - [Preview the Portal Questions](#)
 - Note
 - You may use this preview document to prepare your responses.
- Step Two
 - Complete the information in the [Nomination Portal](#).
 - Note
 - Copy and paste your responses from the preview document into the portal or respond directly in the portal.



Models of Excellence Award Ceremony



Celebrations: What to expect?

- Educational stakeholders, dignitaries, neighboring districts, and aspiring leaders will be invited to attend.
- School assembly will be convened.
- Assembly includes performances by students and introductions/acknowledgements.
- A representative from the Louisiana Department of Education will present the award.
- Learning walks to see the initiative in action will take place on the day of the ceremony.
- Photos and videos will be taken throughout the day.

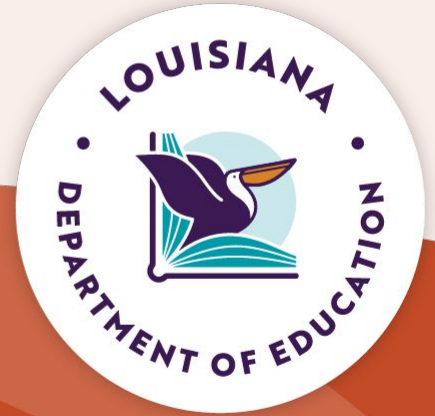


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Next Steps and Questions



Next Steps and Questions

- Next Steps
 - Complete the information in the [Nomination Portal](#).
 - Nominations need to be submitted by February 2, 2026, to be considered for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Questions
 - Questions may be submitted to modelsofexcellence@la.gov.

