



Lafourche Parish School District

Making the Impossible Possible Through Science

The Initiative

Under the Department's guidance, [Louisiana Student Standards for Science](#) call for students to apply content knowledge; investigate, evaluate, and reason scientifically; and connect ideas across disciplines. Along with providing opportunities for professional training for content leaders, the Department has created a list of [high-quality science curriculums](#) that align with the science standards. Lafourche Parish School District was selected as a Models of Excellence recipient for their commitment to providing high quality science instruction for students in grades K-12.

Funding

This initiative was financed through Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) and [Super App](#) funds.

Structure

As part of the adoption of the Amplify Science Curriculum at the elementary level, all science teachers, curriculum coaches and administrators engaged in professional learning with Amplify Education. Elementary curriculum specialists and coaches utilized the Planning Guide for Science Instruction to strengthen planning during teacher collaboration and walk-through observations to determine needs and next steps. The adoption plan for the OpenSciEd curriculum at the secondary level involved both leveraging the expertise of pilot teachers to redeliver curriculum and unit-specific training along with partnering with an approved professional learning provider for more targeted support. Strategies for implementation support include utilizing resources like the Planning Guide for Science Instruction and achievement level descriptors along with coaching that focuses on addressing specific teacher and student learning needs.

In Conclusion

Lafourche Parish has made significant growth over the past few years despite the challenges of the pandemic and Hurricane Ida. This growth is due in part to the school system's commitment to high quality science instruction. In addition to their swift and strategic adoption of [high-quality materials](#), the school system has prioritized professional learning and utilized data to drive instruction. When systems unexpectedly had to transition to virtual and hybrid instruction in 2020 due to the pandemic, Lafourche teacher leaders led the charge in partnership with the Department to develop [distance learning adaptations for middle school science units](#) that provide practical tips and resources for engaging students in high-quality science learning during necessary shifts to virtual or hybrid instruction. These resources have received national recognition and are being used by teachers all across the country.

- To learn more about past Models of Excellence recipients, visit the [School and School System Awards](#) page.
- For questions, contact modelsofexcellence@la.gov.