



# Teacher Leader Newsletter



October 2025



Hello! I'm Laurie Duhon, the Technology Supervisor for Jefferson Davis Parish Schools. It's an exciting time in education as we build the future of digital learning and lay the foundation for innovation powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI).

In Jefferson Davis Parish, we are embracing AI not merely as a new technology but as a powerful tool that demands a strategic and deliberate approach. Currently, our focus is on supporting our remarkable educators with essential AI integration training, which will enable them to harness AI to design dynamic, personalized learning experiences for our students.

With the great potential of AI comes the critical responsibility of teaching its safe and ethical use. In our school system, we launched our AI professional learning initiative at the Level Up Technology Conference and continue to support teachers throughout the school year. I'm pleased that the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is providing resources to guide us, as these tools help bridge the gap between potential and practice. This ensures AI is used responsibly to support the implementation of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM).

I encourage you to explore these key resources as we work together to unlock the potential of AI:

- The [Strategic AI Integration: A Pre-Work Checklist for Educators](#) provides essential steps to prepare for using AI effectively in your classroom.
- The [C.R.E.A.T.E. Framework for Effective AI Prompting](#) supports educators in crafting precise prompts to leverage AI with their HQIM.
- The [Digital Citizenship and Artificial Intelligence](#) guide is a crucial resource for teaching students how to use AI safely and ethically.

Thoughtful integration of these tools is how we will prepare our students for the future of technology and digital literacy.

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# NUMERACY RESOURCES

## **New Lesson Preparation and Unit Study Tools are now available.**

The new [Math Unit Study Tool](#) and [Lesson Preparation Protocol](#) support effective planning with HQIM. These tools guide teachers as they prepare by focusing on the most critical elements of each unit and lesson.

Using these tools, teachers can:

- Clarify learning goals related to the standards.
- Anticipate student misconceptions.
- Study how lessons connect within and across units.
- Highlight key tasks, questions, and strategies expected of all learners.

When used in teacher collaboration, the tool builds shared understanding among teachers, leading to more consistent and coherent instruction. Regular lesson preparation will improve pacing, engagement, and outcomes.

Please contact [math@la.gov](mailto:math@la.gov) with questions.

# SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

## **English Learner Institute**

The LDOE is excited to announce the upcoming English Learner Institute for EL Directors and Coordinators. The Institute will provide essential information and updates regarding English Learners. Select a date and use the link provided to register.

- [January 26, 2026](#)
- [March 16, 2026](#)
- [May 13, 2026](#)

Please contact [alexandra.chenevert@la.gov](mailto:alexandra.chenevert@la.gov) with questions.

## **New Resources for English Learners**

The LDOE is pleased to share five new resources to strengthen programming and instruction for English Learners:

- [Improving Outcomes for English Learners: Louisiana's Framework](#)
- [Strategies for English Learners: A Guide for Novice Teachers](#)
- [Manual for Special Education Referral of English Learners](#)
- [Secondary English Learner Toolkit](#)
- [Supporting English Learners Through the Writing Process](#)

These resources provide both system-level guidance and practical tools for classroom instruction.

Please contact [alexandra.chenevert@la.gov](mailto:alexandra.chenevert@la.gov) with questions.

# ELA RESOURCES

## ELA Guidebooks Unit Updates

Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, the LDOE will implement revisions in select units of the [ELA Guidebooks](#) curriculum. Below is an overview of unit updates.

- Unit text revisions:
  - Grade 8 - The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: updated to use the Young Reader's version of the text
- Unit readers:
  - Future communications will include more information about changes to Unit Readers.
- Unit no longer available:
  - Grade 11 - Friday Night Lights
- Units moving grade levels:
  - Diary: moving from grade 8 to grade 9
  - A Lesson Before Dying: moving from grade 9 to grade 10
  - The Joy Luck Club: moving from grade 9 to grade 10
- Additional unit development:
  - Development of additional units for grades 8, 9, and 11 is underway. Future communications will include further details.

Local school systems should determine the grade-level implementation of each unit.

Please contact [elaguidebooks@la.gov](mailto:elaguidebooks@la.gov) with questions.

## Librarian Support and Resources

The LDOE updated the [Louisiana Educator Advancement and Development \(LEADS\)](#) web page to include the [Louisiana Library Program Rubric](#) and other helpful resources. To locate these resources on the LEADS web page, scroll to the Louisiana Educator Evaluation section and select Observation and Feedback.

The Louisiana Association of School Librarians (LASL) has launched a [Membership Survey](#) to better serve the librarians in Louisiana and encourages all interested members to complete it promptly.

Please contact [elaguidebooks@la.gov](mailto:elaguidebooks@la.gov) with questions.

# SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

## Social Studies Office Hours

The LDOE will hold its third social studies office hours session of the 2025-2026 school year on **November 5 at 3:15 p.m.** This session will feature the Unit Study Tool and the What Teachers Need to Know document. For access to past office hours slides and information on upcoming sessions, please refer to the [Social Studies Office Hours flyer](#) on the [K-12 Social Studies Planning](#) webpage.

**Webinar Date and Time:** November 5 at 3:15 p.m.

**Webinar Link** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97436075546>

**Webinar Phone Number:** 1 346 248 7799

**Meeting ID#:** 974 3607 5546

**Meeting Passcode:** 280838

Please contact [socialstudies@la.gov](mailto:socialstudies@la.gov) with questions.

## **Bayou Bridges and Foundations of Freedom Pacing Guides**

The LDOE has released detailed alternate pacing guides for [Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Social Studies Curriculum](#) and [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#). Developed by social studies educators, these guides offer standards-aligned pacing options that are coherent, flexible, and designed to support student needs. Units 1-3 are available, and the remaining units to be released on a rolling basis. Teachers should use these pacing guides to adjust instruction and better meet the needs of students.

Please contact [socialstudies@la.gov](mailto:socialstudies@la.gov) with questions.

## **Social Studies Course Frameworks**

To support high school social studies instruction, the LDOE has released course frameworks for World History and World Geography. Units 1-3 are now available, with the remaining units to be released on a rolling basis. Teachers are encouraged to use these frameworks to ensure alignment with state standards, guide lesson planning, and provide a coherent learning experience for students.

Please contact [socialstudies@la.gov](mailto:socialstudies@la.gov) with questions.

# **SCIENCE RESOURCES**

## **Now Available: Customizing HQIM Resources**

Resources are now available for teachers who wish to customize their science HQIM through the purposeful integration of LDOE formative assessment resources. The [Integrating LDOE Formative Assessment Items into Science HQIM](#) support document is now available on the [K-12 Science Planning website](#) under the “Science Instructional Planning and Customization Resources” dropdown. This resource includes framing context, process guidance, and an example. This resource is best used during collaborative planning.

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

# **COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STEM RESOURCES**

## **Mark your calendars for Computer Science Education Week!**

Celebrate Computer Science Education Week (CS Ed Week), December 8-14, by planning classroom, school, or system-wide events focused on computer science. Building on student curiosity and excitement, CS Ed Week events or activities may serve as a vital step towards implementing the [Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science](#). Give students the chance to learn computer science concepts through lessons focusing on coding, computational thinking, and cybersecurity, and start planning [CS Ed Week activities](#) today!

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

## **Ignite Initiative: Computer Science for K-5 Teachers**

The Ignite Initiative offers 24 hours of no-cost teacher training in computational thinking, block programming, and cyber safety. The training prepares K-5 teachers to integrate computer science education experiences into existing instruction. Cohorts are available in virtual, in-person, and hybrid formats, with the first cohort beginning this fall. Interested teachers may register using the [Ignite Initiative website](#).

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

# EDTECH

## Cybersecurity Awareness Month

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and it's a great time to equip students with the knowledge to become responsible and safe digital users. In today's connected world, understanding how to navigate the digital landscape with confidence and security is an essential skill.

The [LDOE's Digital Learning website](#) has several resources to support teachers in educating students about cybersecurity. Teachers are encouraged to use these guides to start conversations and lead activities in their classroom this month and throughout the year.

The LDOE's cybersecurity and digital resources include:

- [Digital Responsibility and AI Guide](#)
- [Elementary Student Guide](#)
- [Secondary Student Guide](#)
- [Teacher Guide](#)
- [Parent Guide](#)

These resources provide valuable strategies and activities to help establish a foundation of safe and responsible online practices for all learners.

Please contact [digitallearning@la.gov](mailto:digitallearning@la.gov) with questions.

# EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

## 2025 LATM & LSTA Joint Conference

The [Louisiana Association for Teachers of Mathematics](#) (LATM) and the [Louisiana Science Teachers Association](#) (LSTA) will host their conference on November 6-7 at the Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge. This conference features inspiring educational sessions from leaders in math and science education, including the LDOE, and offers opportunities to network with colleagues from around the state. Pre-registration closes on **October 22**. Visit the [conference website](#) for more information and to register.

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

# EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

## Teacher/Principal, New Teacher, and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year Application Process Open

The application process for the following awards programs is now open:

- Teacher and Principal of the Year
- New Teacher of the Year
- Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year

### **Application Deadlines**

- Teacher/Principal of the Year and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year applications are due **January 14**.
- New Teacher of the Year applications are due **January 21**.

The application materials and timelines are posted in the resource section for each program on the [Staff and Educator Awards](#) page. The online portal for state-level applications will open later this fall.

Please contact the following with questions:

- Teacher/Principal of the Year [excellenteducators@la.gov](mailto:excellenteducators@la.gov)
- New Teacher of the Year [laurie.carlton@la.gov](mailto:laurie.carlton@la.gov)
- Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year [shallan.jones@la.gov](mailto:shallan.jones@la.gov)

### **School Support, Health Provider, and Physical Activity Awards- Application Process Open**

The application process for the following award programs is now open:

- [Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year](#)
- [School Health Service Provider of the Year](#)
- [School Physical Activity Award](#)

Applications close **December 9**. All application materials, online portal links, timelines, and additional resources are available on the [Awards](#) page.

Please contact the following with questions:

- Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year [excellenteducators@la.gov](mailto:excellenteducators@la.gov)
- School Health Service Provider of the Year and School Physical Activity Awards [healthyschools@la.gov](mailto:healthyschools@la.gov)

## **CONTACT US**

For questions related to...	Contact:
AP Courses and Exams Contact	<a href="mailto:highschoolacademics@la.gov">highschoolacademics@la.gov</a>
Assessments and Related Supports	<a href="mailto:assessment@la.gov">assessment@la.gov</a>
Collaborations	<a href="mailto:districtsupport@la.gov">districtsupport@la.gov</a>
Compass	<a href="mailto:compass@la.gov">compass@la.gov</a>
Content Leaders and Mentor Teachers	<a href="mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov">believeandprepare@la.gov</a>
EdTech/Digital Learning	<a href="mailto:digitallearning@la.gov">digitallearning@la.gov</a>
Educational Leader Licensure Policy Update	<a href="mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov">believeandprepare@la.gov</a>
Educator Background Credentialing	<a href="mailto:educatorclearance@la.gov">educatorclearance@la.gov</a>
ELA and ELA Guidebooks	<a href="mailto:elaguidebooks@la.gov">elaguidebooks@la.gov</a>
Environmental Education	<a href="mailto:environmentaleducation@la.gov">environmentaleducation@la.gov</a>
Financial Aid Assistance	<a href="mailto:ldefinancial@la.gov">ldefinancial@la.gov</a>
Graduation Requirements	<a href="mailto:highschoolacademics@la.gov">highschoolacademics@la.gov</a>

Instructional Support and Resources	<a href="mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov">classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov</a>
Jump Start	<a href="mailto:jumpstart@la.gov">jumpstart@la.gov</a>
Literacy	<a href="mailto:louisianaliteracy@la.gov">louisianaliteracy@la.gov</a>
Math	<a href="mailto:math@la.gov">math@la.gov</a>
PD Vendor Guide	<a href="mailto:louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov">louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov</a>
Pupil Progression Plan	<a href="mailto:ppp@la.gov">ppp@la.gov</a>
Registration for the Teacher Leader Summit	<a href="mailto:ldoeevents@la.gov">ldoeevents@la.gov</a>
Social Studies	<a href="mailto:socialstudies@la.gov">socialstudies@la.gov</a>
STEM	<a href="mailto:STEM@la.gov">STEM@la.gov</a>
Teacher Certification	<a href="mailto:certification@la.gov">certification@la.gov</a>
Teacher Leaders and Teacher Leader Advisors	<a href="mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov">classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov</a>