



# Teacher Leader Newsletter



December 2025



Hello! I'm Michelle Webb, a Kindergarten teacher at North Desoto Lower Elementary School in Desoto Parish. I was inspired to become a Teacher Leader Advisor (TLA) after attending the first Bayou Bridges session at the 2026 Teacher Leader Summit. I'm excited to bring that energy back to my school and parish and to help create [resources](#) that support Social Studies teachers across Louisiana.

Since becoming a TLA, I've realized how important elementary social studies is for building a strong foundation of social studies content knowledge. Using the [Bayou Bridges Teacher and Student Materials](#) created by the LDOE in partnership with Core Knowledge has made my classroom more engaging and effective. The teacher notes and embedded questions assist with pacing, ensure that key concepts are addressed, and support students' success on performance tasks.

Currently, the LDOE is developing K-2 Social Studies Knowledge Building Cards designed to explicitly teach important social studies core vocabulary through engaging, student-friendly tools that support understanding and the development of content vocabulary. This

approach supports language acquisition, as described in Scarborough's Reading Rope model (2001), by enhancing both language comprehension and word recognition skills. Knowledge Building Cards help young learners make meaningful connections to topics by integrating words with experiences and building academic language as they engage with social studies content. Students deepen their understanding of history, civics, and geography while supporting better reading comprehension across all subjects. These cards will be available for grades K-2 in the 2026-2027 school year.

I'm thrilled to continue my work as a TLA and help students connect with social studies in meaningful ways! Helpful [instructional resources](#) are available for teachers of all subjects. Explore the resources available to help students make meaningful connections in all content areas.

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# NUMERACY RESOURCES

## **Math Leader Community of Practice**

The LDOE, in partnership with the Charles A. Dana Center, is launching a [Community of Practice for Math Leaders](#) to strengthen math teaching and coaching across Louisiana. Through this initiative, participants will connect and collaborate with math leaders from across the state and share best practices and coaching strategies for implementing High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) more effectively in their work.

Beginning in January 2026, participants will meet virtually for two hours each month and will conclude their experience with a special session at the [2026 Teacher Leader Summit](#). The [Community of Practice for Math Leaders](#) includes more information, including access to the interest form.

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

## **K-3 Numeracy Screener**

The LDOE is implementing the K–3 Numeracy Screener in alignment with [Act 650 \(2024\)](#) and [Bulletin 118](#). The 2025–2026 school year serves as a learning year before full implementation in 2026–2027.

School systems completed the Beginning-of-Year (BOY) screener within the first 30 days of school and should now prepare for the Middle-of-Year (MOY) window in December.

The best preparation is strong core math instruction and clear communication about the screener’s purpose, which is to identify students needing support, not to measure mastery of all standards. Viewing it as a comprehensive assessment may misrepresent student progress and hinder long-term success. Visit the [Numeracy Screener](#) web page for more information.

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

## **Louisiana Achievement in Numeracy Act (LANE)**

Per [Act 260 \(2023\)](#) and [Act 353 of 2025 \(LANE\)](#), all K–8 math teachers must complete an LDOE-approved numeracy course. School and system leaders must collect proof of completion from all new hires teaching these grades. An optional numeracy course for high school math teachers is also available.

Teachers can access courses through the 2025–2026 school year, and system contacts have received the course codes. [Guidance and Framing](#) information is available on the [Louisiana Math web page](#). Systems should actively support teachers in meeting these requirements. Numeracy leaders are invited to join monthly office hours on December 17 at 9 a.m.

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

# SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

## **Dyslexia Core Assessment Program Update**

[Louisiana Act 517](#) (2024) established a statewide pathway for identifying and supporting students flagged as “at risk” for dyslexia. The LDOE is preparing for the launch of an online application portal, which will allow families to apply for up to \$500 in reimbursement for a dyslexia core assessment conducted by an [approved vendor](#). The LDOE will share additional guidance and school communication tools ahead of the program’s January 2026 launch.

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

## **Crisis Prevention Institute**

Louisiana [Act 479 \(2025\)](#) revised Louisiana's requirements for the use of seclusion and restraint. In alignment with these updates, the LDOE has partnered with the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) to ensure districts receive guidance on the safe use of restrictive interventions, including appropriate safety practices throughout any seclusion or physical restraint event.

To support districts without currently certified CPI instructors, CPI is offering de-escalation and Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training. Eligible schools may register two staff members to become Certified Instructors.

Upcoming training sessions are scheduled for:

- December 9–11 in Lafayette and Shreveport

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

## **SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES**

### **Social Studies Office Hours**

To support the implementation of [Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Social Studies Curriculum](#) and [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#), the LDOE will hold office hours on the first Wednesday of each month from 3:15–4 p.m. The January session will feature the Louisiana social studies skills and practices. The information for the sixth call is below:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** January 7 at 3:15 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/9743607554>
- **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.

### **Land of Liberty: The History of the United States Webpage**

The LDOE is excited to announce the launch of the new [Land of Liberty: The History of the United States web page](#). Teachers can view a sample Land of Liberty unit and take a closer look at curricular features such as the unit study tool. Once the curriculum is fully released this spring, teachers can use these resources for collaborative planning and pacing of the curriculum for the 2026–2027 school year.

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

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STEM RESOURCES**

### **Computer Science Education Week is Coming Soon!**

Participate in Computer Science Education Week (CS Ed Week), December 8–14, to raise awareness and prepare for implementing the [Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science](#).

Teachers may plan engaging experiences using a [collection](#) of activities and resources for grades K–5, 6–8, and 9–12 covering core concepts such as coding, computational thinking, and cybersecurity. Use this week to get students excited about computer science, whether exploring computer science with a single classroom activity, a school-wide spotlight, or a system-wide focus.

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

# EDTECH

## **Updated Digital Literacy Guidance**

The LDOE published updated [Digital Literacy Guidance](#) to support educators in integrating technology purposefully into instruction.

This document serves as a flexible framework, not a curriculum, intended to support schools in modeling technology use at the appropriate grade level. The guidance outlines digital literacy target skills organized by grade band (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12) across eight Core Competencies, including

- Computational Thinking & Problem Solving
- Creativity & Innovation
- Information & Data Literacy
- Collaboration & Communication
- Digital Citizenship & Ethics
- Cybersecurity & Online Safety
- Technology Operations & Concepts
- Artificial Intelligence & Emerging Technologies

To make planning easier, the document includes specific subject area connections for mathematics, ELA, science, social studies, and health education. Whether it is K-2 students using drawing apps to express ideas or high schoolers analyzing the societal impacts of AI, this guidance helps connect the Louisiana Student Standards to essential digital skills.

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

## **World Language Tech Passport**

The LDOE is excited to share a collection of EdTech resources designed to help educators integrate technology into world language instruction. Explore these guides to discover implementation strategies, best practices, and relevant tools:

- [AI Translation for World Languages](#)
- [Interpretive Reading Tools in World Language Instruction](#)
- [Video Creation Support and Tools for World Language Instruction](#): While designed to support the creation of authentic target-language videos, this guide offers valuable strategies and practical tips applicable across all subject areas.

Continue to visit the [Digital Learning webpage](#) for updates and resources.

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

# EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

## **Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA) Awards**

[The Louisiana Science Teachers Association \(LSTA\)](#) recognized the following outstanding Louisiana science educators for 2025 with a ceremony at the joint LSTA/LATM Conference on November 6. Awardees include LSTA Outstanding Middle School Science Teacher Loren Klein (Edgar Martin Middle School) and the LSTA Jean May-Brett Distinguished Informal Science Educator Lindsay Seely (Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries). Congratulations to all of the awardees!

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

# STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

## **Youth Legislature of Louisiana**

The LDOE is excited to share an amazing opportunity for students: the Youth Legislature of Louisiana. This program introduces students to the legislative process and empowers them to step into the role of

lawmakers by

- Experiencing a mock legislative session; and
- Debating real issues with peers from across the state.

Middle school teachers interested in learning more about the Youth Legislature of Louisiana or applying for the 2025-2026 session, contact [youthlegislatureofla@gmail.com](mailto:youthlegislatureofla@gmail.com).

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

## 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>

