



Principal's Newsletter



February 21, 2025

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LEADS CORNER

Many of you may be in your second or third cycle of teacher observations. Your passion for this process demonstrates your dedication to advancing student achievement. Below are a few steps to continue a smooth transition to LEADS:

- School instructional leadership teams conduct trend analysis with observation data from the first cycle of educator observations, identify strengths and growth opportunities, and determine next steps for the team's professional learning
- School leaders engage in MOY Conferences
- For eligible educators, designated observers/evaluators of educators at each school conduct subsequent follow-up coaching and support cycle

The [Guide for School Leaders: Planning for Implementation](#) is an available resource to support LEADS implementation.

Resources continue to be added to the [LEADS Public Collections](#) section of the Professional Learning Platform. The first set of the [Full Length Lesson Sets](#) is now available. This set includes pre-conference, observation, post-conference, and PGP/coaching plan materials. The [Video Clip Collection](#), which highlights classroom instructional best practices aligned to the Instructional Domain indicators of the [Louisiana Educator Rubric \(LER\)](#), is also available. These resources offer access to professional learning for system leaders, school leaders, teacher leaders, and teachers to support the advancement of classroom instruction and student learning. Louisiana educators can use these materials in various professional learning settings to deepen the knowledge of the LER, build rater reliability and a common language for the LER, and hone LER observation skills.

School leaders are encouraged to participate in LEADS implementation support opportunities. The February and March [LEADS Implementation On-Site Support Sessions](#) focus on coaching plans. Participants will extend their learning on creating a comprehensive coaching plan. Registration is now open in [EventBrite](#).

Keep in mind that observation data is placed into the Louisiana Evaluation System (LES). Collaborate with your LES system contact person to ensure that you can access the system. You are able to view the slide deck of the previous [LES Webinar for School Leaders](#) and the [recording](#).

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 LEADS Louisiana Evaluator Training

Evaluator training to support LEADS implementation for the 2025-2026 Full Implementation Year has been scheduled. All evaluators and designated observers must attend face-to-face training and take a certification assessment prior to evaluating. Evaluators must attend all full, consecutive days in order to qualify for the assessment. Evaluators are encouraged to register for earlier dates to allow time to reschedule if conflicts arise. Registration is now available on [Eventbrite](#).

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit 2025

Educators, it's time! The 13th annual [Teacher Leader Summit](#) will be held June 10-12 in New Orleans at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. This year's Teacher Leader Summit will focus on "A New Story for Louisiana Education." Teacher Leader Summit early bird [registration](#) is now open.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

RESOURCES

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Assessment Development Educator Review Committees

The Division of Assessment Content will convene assessment committees for the LEAP assessment in May and June to

- review newly developed items for alignment, content-related criteria, and appropriateness for all Louisiana students (Science and Social Studies) and
- develop expectations for the scoring of field-tested LEAP constructed-response items and extended-response tasks (Science, Math, and Social Studies)

Interested educators should access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees document](#) for information on exact dates, meeting details, and links and deadlines to apply to participate on specific committees. The deadline to complete the applications is March 14.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners and Early Childhood Teacher Leader Advisor Applications Now Open

The LDOE is excited to announce that applications are now being accepted for Diverse Learners (English Learners) and Early Childhood [Teacher Leader Advisors](#) (TLAs). TLAs serve an essential role in supporting the implementation of the Louisiana Student Standards by creating resources and providing training for teachers. Interested educators should submit their [applications](#) by March 3.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR TALENT AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Aspiring Principal Fellowship 2025-2026 Application Available

The LDOE is excited to offer the fifth cohort of the Aspiring Principal Fellowship for the 2025-2026 school year. This transformative fellowship will equip up to 50 individuals with the essential knowledge and skills to step into the principal role. Through this selective statewide program, aspiring school leaders will begin a unique year-long journey to elevate their leadership potential. Fellowship participants will collaborate throughout the year, exploring best practices with regional and national experts. They will engage in immersive full-day school visits, working hand-in-hand with exemplary practicing principals while participating in professional learning aligned with current state initiatives.

Applicants must hold or be eligible for a current EDL1 certification in Louisiana. School systems must cover the \$1,000 tuition for presenters and materials, as well as travel costs. Interested candidates should complete this [Aspiring Principal Fellowship Application](#) no later than April 7. Fellowship applicants will be notified of acceptance by May 9.

Additional information about the Aspiring Principal Fellowship can be found in the [APF overview document](#).

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

ACADEMICS

ELA

ELA Professional Learning Opportunity for ELA Instructional Leaders

The ELA content team will host a series of webinars focused on high-quality teaching during the spring semester. These sessions will empower leaders to support strong ELA instruction to maximize student learning.

The third session of the ELA Learning Series for Leaders, [Data Analysis for Leaders](#), will be held on March 10. Interested leaders should register to participate. Upon registration, participants will receive a Zoom invitation with the webinar link.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Professional Learning Opportunity for ELA Teachers

The ELA content team will host a series of webinars focused on high-quality teaching during the spring semester. These sessions will empower teachers to plan for and implement important pedagogical moves to best support student learning.

The third session of the ELA Learning Series for teachers, [Data Analysis for Teachers](#), will be held on March 12. Interested teachers should register to participate. Upon registration, participants will receive a Zoom invitation with the webinar link.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

MATH

Teachers and leaders should regularly monitor data on [Zearn Implementation](#), using [Zearn Tools](#) and Class Reports to reflect on key factors of planning, behavior management, engagement, and goal setting.

Consider the following questions:

- Are teachers and students signing in to Zearn regularly?
- Are students getting 90 minutes per week with Zearn?
- Are students completing three **grade-level** Zearn lessons per week?
- Are expectations clear and in place for students who **meet** the 90 minutes per week goal?
- Are expectations clear and in place for students who **are not meeting** the 90 minutes per week goal?

Join [Zearn/Louisiana Leader Collaboration](#) on Tuesdays throughout the school year to discuss implementation with leaders from systems across the state. The next meeting is March 11 at 9 a.m.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with any questions.

Act 260: Numeracy Training

To meet the deadline of August 1 completion, grades 4-8 mathematics teachers and leaders should reference the [suggested pacing schedule](#).

- February (approximately 53% complete)
 - Module 14: Applying Ratio and Proportional Relationships
 - Module 15: Use Properties of Operations to Generate Equivalent Expressions

All content modules for the optional grades K-3 course have been published in the Louisiana Professional Learning Platform. The post-test and completion certificate will be available by March 1.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with any questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Foundations of Freedom Webpage

The LDOE is excited to announce the upcoming release of the [Foundations of Freedom, A Louisiana Civics Program webpage](#). Teachers can use the webpage to view a sample unit and other curriculum features, such as the unit study tool. Once the curriculum is fully released this spring, the unit study tool will allow for collaborative planning and pacing of the curriculum for the upcoming school year.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies Office Hours

The LDOE social studies team is continuing monthly office hours to support the implementation of [Bayou Bridges, a K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum](#).

To participate, educators should go to the [Social Studies Office Hours](#) to join during the scheduled time. See the [Social Studies Office Hours flyer](#) for more information on dates and topics.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Bayou Bridges Instructional Slide Decks

Bayou Bridges instructional slide decks for Unit 5 and Unit 6, for grades 3 and 8, are now available. The slide decks can be accessed on the [Bayou Bridges](#) landing page.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

DIVERSE LEARNERS

Fast Track ESL Add-On

Tuition-free courses are available for teachers and leaders to earn an ESL Add-On credential. Please complete the 2024 - 2026 [Early Interest Survey](#) to receive information about Project Endorsement Plus opportunities.

Please contact alexandra.chenevert@la.gov with any questions.

Virtual Office Hours: Bringing the Special Education Playbook to Life- IEP Writing Support

Join New Solutions' Virtual Drop-In Office Hours for an opportunity to:

- Ask questions about integrating best practices into your IEPs
- Get clarification on best instructional practices content
- Explore additional examples of effective IEP language

From January to May, New Solutions' IEP office hours will be at 2 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with any questions.

2025 Youth Leadership Forum Application Open

The 2025 Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) is a four-day residential leadership program focused on empowering youth with disabilities while promoting an environment of disability culture and pride. This program gives delegates the skills needed to become future leaders! YLF is currently recruiting staff and delegates for its four-day program this summer. The program will be held July 10 – 13, 2025, at the Louisiana State University at Eunice campus. All speakers are peer mentors with disabilities. In addition to learning about advocacy and leadership, delegates will have the opportunity to make like-minded friends and build community. Lodging, accommodations, and meals will be provided at no cost. Learn more at the [YLF website](#) and apply to be a delegate or staff member.

Please contact ldejean@fhfacadiana.org with any questions.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Funding Priority Survey

Each year, the LDOE submits a grant application on the use of state-level IDEA funds to the U.S. Department of Education. As part of this year's grant application development process, the LDOE is seeking feedback on how to prioritize funding for allowable special education activities. Any interested stakeholders, including school system representatives, parents, and other members of the public, should complete the [SY25-26 Stakeholder Input on IDEA Funding Priorities \(FFY25\)](#) survey by March 14.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with any questions.

SCIENCE

Updated Science Implementation Guides

The LDOE is updating the implementation guides for high-quality instructional materials in science. The update adds LDOE Formative Assessment Items, LEAP Practice Test Items, and LEAP Assessment Guide Items correlated to the Louisiana Student Standards for Science (LSSS) for each unit of the respective high-quality materials. The revised guides are now available on the [K-12 Science Planning Page](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STEM

Energize Initiative Praxis (5652) Computer Science Content Exam Preparation for 6-12 Teachers

The [Energize Initiative](#) offers 40 hours of no-cost preparation to teachers in grades 6-12 for the Praxis (5652) Computer Science content exam. The Praxis (5652) Exam allows certified 6-12 teachers to add the Computer Science endorsement to their teaching license. The initiative is offered virtually, hybrid, and in person with cohorts available through June.

Refresher sessions will also be offered for teachers who participated in Energize previously and want additional exam review before attempting the Praxis (5652) exam. Teachers may register for either training using the [Energize Project Geaux for Launch](#) online registration form.

Please contact energize@southeastern.edu 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 to prepare K-5 teachers to integrate computer science education experiences into their content areas. Multiple cohorts are available in virtual, in-person, and hybrid formats. [Registration](#) is now open, and training cohorts will be held from February through June.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

LITERACY

Launch of the Louisiana Literacy MTSS Framework

The Literacy Team is excited to announce the launch of the [Louisiana Literacy MTSS Framework](#), which can be found in the [Literacy Library](#). A webinar, [Launching Literacy MTSS for School Leaders](#), will be held on March 27 at 1 p.m. The webinar will walk school leaders through the major components of the MTSS Literacy Framework and address the professional learning required to implement a healthy literacy MTSS, scheduling guidance, staff and materials necessary for implementation, and programming coherence.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Reading Intervention in Secondary School Webinar Series

The Reading Intervention in Secondary Schools webinar series is a series of hour-long webinars designed to help instructional leaders develop a plan to implement reading interventions in grades 6-12.

Topics will include:

- Starting interventions through appropriate assessments
- Utilizing a multi-tiered system of support for intervention
- Progress monitoring and intervention best practices

The sessions will be delivered through the Louisiana Professional Learning Platform. Attendees must be logged in to participate and receive new learning. EdLink permissions must be granted for learners to engage on the platform. A course code will be provided during each session.

Reading Intervention in Secondary Schools Webinar Series Schedule:

- Session 1: Occurred January 22: Course Code: 55F31UU5
- [Session 2](#): February 26 at 10 a.m.
- [Session 3](#): March 26 at 10 a.m.
- [Session 4](#): April 30 at 10 a.m.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER SIGN UP

Do you have a colleague who would benefit from receiving this newsletter? Forward this copy and encourage them to [subscribe](#) to our next monthly newsletter.

PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION

If you have an extraordinary building-level leader you would like to recommend to be highlighted in future newsletters, please submit information about the outstanding leader using the [LDOE Principal's Newsletter Leader Spotlight Nomination Form](#). This note of appreciation will be included in our next monthly newsletter.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

Important Dates	
Reading Intervention in Secondary Schools Webinar	February 26 at 10 a.m.
Diverse Learners and Early Childhood Teacher Leader Advisor Applications Due	March 3
ELA Professional Learning for Instructional Leaders	March 10 at 3:30 p.m.
Launching Literacy MTSS for School Leaders Webinar	March 27 at 1 p.m.