



Principal's Newsletter



May 2025

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LEADS CORNER

As the third cycle of teacher observations is completed, the tremendous progress made this year in advancing student growth through teacher development deserves recognition. The dedication and leadership shown has been instrumental in creating impactful learning experiences. Below are a few steps for end-of-year tasks:

- **Conduct Trend Analyses:** School instructional leadership teams should review observation data from all three cycles to identify strengths, areas for growth, and to plan next steps for professional learning. Consider focusing on extended LER indicator deep dives, connections to high-quality instructional materials (HQIM), and insights from student work.
- **Continue Coaching and Support:** For eligible educators, designated observers/evaluators at each school should complete the third observation cycle, followed by targeted coaching or a forward-looking conversation to guide planning for next year's coaching cycle.
- **Ensure LES Data Entry:** Observation data should be entered into the Louisiana Evaluation System (LES). Please coordinate with the school's LES contact to ensure timely data entry and end-of-year tasks.
- **Leverage the Guide:** Use [Guide for School Leaders: Planning for Implementation](#) as a resource to support LEADS transition.
- **Deepen Teacher Collaboration:** In collaborative settings, educators should follow a long-range plan that builds deep knowledge of the LER and aligns with the ILT's professional learning goals, including extended indicator deep dives, HQIM alignment, and analysis of student work.

Observation data is placed into the Louisiana Evaluation System ([LES](#)). There should be collaboration with the LES system contact if there is difficulty with completing the end-of-year data entry. The [Guide for School Leaders: Planning for Implementation](#) is a continuous resource to support LEADS implementation.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Resources

Resources continue to be added to the [LEADS Public Collections](#) section of the Professional Learning Platform. Two new modules to deepen understanding of the interconnectedness of the indicators of the Louisiana Educator Rubric are now available: [The Rubric is Holistic: Promoting Strong Academic Conversations](#) and [The LER is Holistic: Impact of Thinking and Problem Solving on Student Engagement](#).

There are now two [Full Length Lesson Sets](#) available. These sets include 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.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Louisiana Evaluation System (LES) End of Year Tasks

Schools may begin finalizing educator evaluations in the Louisiana Evaluation System ([LES](#)) portal. As part of this process, educators should complete the following tasks based on their role:

- **Teachers** should enter their Student Learning Targets (SLTs), input self-assessment scores, assess students, report SLT results, and submit the Principal Survey.
- **Counselors and School Leaders** are responsible for entering self-assessment scores. If data is available, also enter the SLTs and report the results.
- **Evaluators** are encouraged to check rosters, enter and complete observations, accept and rate SLTs, and enter End-of-Year (EOY) conference scores.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

2025 LEADS Louisiana Evaluator Training and Annual Recertification

All evaluators and designated observers must attend face-to-face training and complete a certification assessment prior to evaluating. LEADS evaluator training for the 2025-2026 school year. To qualify for the assessment, evaluators must attend all full, consecutive days. Evaluators are encouraged to register for the earliest available date to allow time to reschedule if conflicts arise. [LEADS Evaluator Training registration](#) for the 2025-2026 school year is now available on Eventbrite. (Those who have previously attended LER or LLCR training do not need to attend again; however, the certification assessment is an annual requirement. More information on how to recertify will be published soon.)

All evaluators and designated observers who attended LEADS training during the 2024-2025 school year have now been assigned the 2025-2026 annual recertification assessment. Individuals may now log in to [EdLink Security](#) to access Canopy and begin taking the assessment. For the 2024-2025 school year only, those who took the assessment from January through April were automatically marked as complete. Certificates can be accessed in Canopy.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit Session Registration, Hotel Blocks, Payment

Session registration will open on May 20 via the Cvent app. On that date, Cvent will send an email explaining how to download the app and access the event. If payment is not remitted by May 16, registration will be automatically canceled. To submit payment, log in to the email confirmation and select "Submit Payment."

Hotel block information can be found in the [Teacher Leader Summit 2025](#) overview document.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

ACADEMICS

Math

Act 260 Numeracy Training

For hiring purposes, ensure completion of required [numeracy training](#) for all grades 4-8 math teachers, including those of diverse learners. The August 1 deadline for those hired before October 1, 2024, is quickly approaching. Please reach out to your system math leaders for accurate reporting.

Consider encouraging teachers to enroll in required and optional coursework now. Teachers moving into grade 4-8 positions from other grade bands will be required to complete the 4-8 course if they have not already. Deadlines are outlined in the [guidance document](#). Optional courses are available for teachers in grades K-3 and high school. All course codes for all were provided to system-level numeracy contacts in June of 2024.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Zearn Summer Intensive Learning

To ensure students have access to the [Zearn Summer Intensive Series](#), teachers must assign students to the appropriate [Rising Grade Summer Series](#) and provide students with Zearn logins. This high-quality resource is a great tool to support continued summer learning for students in formal programs and those learning at home from any device. For ideas on implementing Zearn in summer programs or supporting parents this summer, reference the [LDOE Math Summer Learning Guidance](#).

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies

Foundations of Freedom: Now Available

[Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#) is now available for download. Teachers are encouraged to visit the [Foundations of Freedom landing page](#) to access materials, such as:

- Foundations of Freedom Student Volumes
- Foundations of Freedom Teacher's Guide
- Foundations of Freedom Curriculum Guide
- Foundations of Freedom Standards Tracker
- Foundations of Freedom Unit Study Tool

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Foundations of Freedom: Summer Civics Institute

To support the initial implementation of [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#), the LDOE is hosting in-person professional learning opportunities this summer. This opportunity is open to system and school leaders and any formal, community-based, or pre-service K-12 social studies educator who will utilize [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#) in the upcoming school year.

See the [Foundations of Freedom Summer Civics Institute flyer](#) for dates, locations, and registration information. To request a seat in one of the half-day sessions, complete the registration form by July 1.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Bayou Bridges Student Workbooks

Bayou Bridges student workbooks are available for the 2025-2026 school year. These workbooks are designed to support student learning by including:

- Student Reading Notes Pages
- Primary Sources
- Checks for Understanding
- Activity Pages
- Performance Tasks
- Supplementary Map or Source Activities

Workbooks can be downloaded from the [Bayou Bridges: a K-8 Social Studies Curriculum](#) landing page or purchased for \$2 each from Core Knowledge at labayoubridges@coreknowledge.org.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Coming Soon: Social Studies Resources

The LDOE is releasing several new [Bayou Bridges: a K-8 Social Studies Curriculum](#), and high school resources this summer, including:

- Bayou Bridges Standards Trackers to ensure comprehensive coverage of each content standard,
- Bayou Bridges Resource Hub, consolidating all internal and external links on one Google Sheet,
- Bayou Bridges Alternate Pacing Guides for grades 3-8, providing additional pacing options for teachers,
- K-2 Instructional Slide Decks, developed in collaboration with the LDOE literacy team, to enhance student engagement, support lesson pacing, facilitate formative assessments, and
- World Geography and World History High School Frameworks, a valuable resource to support instruction and ensure consistent curricular alignment across all grades K-12

Teachers are encouraged to visit the [Bayou Bridges: a K-8 social Studies Curriculum](#) and [K-12 Social Studies Planning](#) pages this summer to access these valuable new resources.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Science

Now Available: New and Updated Science Implementation Resources

The LDOE published the following new and updated resources to assist systems with planning for science implementation in the 2025-2026 school year:

- Louisiana Guide to Piloting OpenSciEd: [Grades K-2](#), [Grade 3](#), [Grade 4](#), [Grade 5](#)
- Louisiana Guide to Implementing Carolina OpenSciEd: [Grade 6](#), [Grade 7](#), [Grade 8](#)
- [OpenSciEd Purchasing and Professional Learning](#)

Resources supporting all [high-quality science curricula and pilots](#) are located on the [K-12 Science Planning web page](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

inquiryHub (iHub) Biology Transition from High-Quality Pilot

Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, inquiryHub Biology will no longer be designated as a high-quality science pilot. This change follows the second phase of materials development by the iHub team with the completion of the OpenSciEd Biology, Chemistry, and Physics materials.

While the foundational inquiryHub materials will remain on the inquiryHub website until 2027, the inquiryHub team will only offer professional learning for the OpenSciEd high school materials.

Systems and schools planning to adopt a new high-quality option for high school Biology may consider [OpenSciEd High School Biology](#) or BSCS Biology. Both of these curricula are supported by professional learning. More information on these materials can be found on the [K-12 Science Planning web page](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

Kindergarten Dyslexia Screening Platform

SPED Directors and District Test Coordinators (DTCs) should collaborate to ensure the successful administration of the Shaywitz DyslexiaScreen™ for kindergarten students prior to the end of this school year. DTCs should have received detailed communication from Pearson with step-by-step instructions for accessing and utilizing the Review360 platform. The initial communication included the following key points:

- **Login Access:** DTCs were identified as coordinators for the LDOE dyslexia screening and should attempt to log into the [system](#).
- **Login Troubleshooting Contact:** DTCs should contact Andrea Press at Pearson: andrea.press@pearson.com, providing their district name and any error messages.
- **User Account Creation:** Once logged in, DTCs can create user accounts for school-level administrators. These administrators can then create teacher accounts for staff who will administer the screening.
- **Student Visibility & Screening Methods:** Students may not appear immediately in the system. Instructions for screening — with or without rostering — were previously provided.

An interactive training on administering the Shaywitz DyslexiaScreen™ is available through Pearson's Brainshark learning management system (LMS). DTCs and school-level staff can self-register using the following link: [Shaywitz Training Registration](#). If staff have previously used Pearson's LMS, they may need to contact Pearson Customer Service (800-328-5999) to have the training added to their account.

Staff support is critical in ensuring that DTCs and school teams are equipped to complete this screening. Proper communication with DTCs is essential to coordinate efforts, provide support as needed, and help ensure this important task is completed in a timely manner.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Special Education Best Instructional Practices

[The Special Education Playbook](#) has been updated to include additional implementation resources. The instructional best practices have not changed: a focus on core instruction, extra time to learn, and content strong educators supporting core and intervention. School leaders are encouraged to revisit the Playbook, use the new tools to guide leadership team planning, and support teachers in ensuring access to high-quality teaching and learning for all students.

IEP team training recordings are available to support teachers with writing IEPs that also support the best practices:

Elementary IEP Workshop Series

- Session 1: [Recording](#) and [Slide Deck](#)
- Session 2: [Recording](#) and [Slide Deck](#)
- Session 3: [Recording](#) and [Slide Deck](#)

Secondary IEP Workshop Series

- Session 1: [Recording](#) and [Slide Deck](#)
- Session 2: [Recording](#) and [Slide Deck](#)
- Session 3: [Recording](#) and [Slide Deck](#)

School leaders play a pivotal role in improving outcomes for all students, including those with disabilities.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Computer Science and STEM

Computer Science Teacher Leader Advisor Applications - NOW OPEN until May 12

Highly motivated Computer Science [Teacher Leader Advisors](#) (TLAs) are needed to drive the implementation of the K-12 Computer Science Standards. Computer Science TLAs will develop teacher resources, deepen curriculum understanding, and deliver training. This paid opportunity allows educators to extend their impact beyond the classroom. [Applications](#) are open now and will close on May 12. Educators are not required to be school-site teacher leaders to apply.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Last Chance to Register: Energize Initiative Praxis (5652) Computer Science Content Exam Preparation

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 initiative is offered virtually, hybrid, and in person, with cohorts available through June 2025.

Refresher sessions will 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 online form.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Last Chance to Register: 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. [Registration](#) is now open, with training cohorts available in virtual, in-person, and hybrid formats from February through June.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit Session Preview: STEM and Computer Science

To provide educators with the knowledge and resources necessary for high-quality STEM and computer science instruction, the 2025 Teacher Leader Summit will feature targeted sessions designed to support the implementation of the Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science and enhance STEM education. STEM and computer science sessions will focus on:

- Unpacking the new K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science
- Supporting computer science standards implementation for educators and leaders
- Applying hands-on STEM strategies and connecting students with STEM careers

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

Catalog of Supports For Literacy Leaders

The [Catalog of Supports for Literacy Leaders](#) is a comprehensive list of resources and professional learning opportunities that allow leaders to deepen their knowledge of literacy best practices. The catalog offers topics such as: Science and Art of Teaching Reading, Tiered Pathways for Literacy Support, DIBELS, Reading Interventions in Secondary Schools, Unit Unpacking and Lesson Internalization, Content Literacy Series, Accelerate: High-Dosage Tutoring School System Implementation Guidance, and Progress Monitoring Best Practices Guidance.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent And Workforce Development

Louisiana Aspiring Educators Summer Academy - Application Deadline Extended

The student application deadline for the [Louisiana Aspiring Educators Summer Academy](#) has been extended to May 20. This five-day, hybrid summer camp is open to high school students enrolled in the Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway, students enrolled in coursework to attract and develop future Louisiana educators, and members of Aspiring Educator clubs. The Academy will be held July 14-18 at Louisiana State University at Alexandria.

Please contact mwillis@lsua.edu with any questions.

EDL Alternative Pathway 4 LDOE Training

The EDL Alternative Pathway 4 offers a unique opportunity for current MPA, MBA, or JD holders, as well as honorably discharged commissioned officers from the US military, to obtain an Educational Leadership Certificate. Eligible applicants must complete training provided by the LDOE and have passed either the School Leadership Licensure Assessment or the Louisiana Leadership Assessment Series. Interested applicants should complete the application for the [Fall 2025 Boot Camp](#).

The pathway requirements state that candidates must be provided a mentor to support their induction and transition into the Educational Leadership role. The LDOE is currently seeking mentors to support these candidates. Current school and system leaders interested in mentoring novice principals are encouraged to complete the [mentor application](#).

Please contact LouisianaLeaders@la.gov for more information about this pathway and training format.

Novice Principal Academy Registration

The LDOE has a foundational belief that student achievement is directly related to the quality of leadership provided by school principals. To support new principals in impacting student achievement quickly, the LDOE has created the Novice Principal Academy to support principals throughout their first year of school leadership.

Applications are now open for the [Novice Principal Academy](#), which is an intensive, year-long cohort that focuses on leadership development through self-reflection, long-range planning, and analyzing school data. Each component is studied, analyzed, and explicitly implemented to improve student achievement in Louisiana schools. Novice principals interested in participating or system leaders looking to support their new leaders are welcome to complete the application.

Please contact LouisianaLeaders@la.gov with questions.

The New Teacher Experience: Summer Kick-Off Registration is OPEN

Registration is now open for the [New Teacher Experience: Summer Kick Off 2025](#), which will be held on July 24 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Baton Rouge for 400 new teachers.

The goals of the event are to:

- Welcome new teachers to the profession
- Understand the components of Louisiana's New Teacher Experience
- Engage in professional learning around topics relevant to new teachers
- Provide statewide networking opportunities for new teachers

The Summer Kick-Off will take place at the Lod Cook Alumni Center in Baton Rouge, located at 3838 W. Lakeshore Drive. [Registration](#) is now open and will close July 16, or once capacity is reached, whichever comes first. School systems should share details about the event with new teachers and ensure that they are able to attend prior to registering.

This event is provided at no cost to systems; however, any travel costs may be covered by the school system. Registration includes lunch and a tote bag with lots of start-of-the-year goodies.

Please contact laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions.

Mentor Teacher, Content Leader, Louisiana Leadership Assessment Series Updates

The LDOE has recently been notified that Bloomboard will no longer be offering the Louisiana Content Leader Assessment or the Louisiana Leadership Assessment Series (LLAS), effective June 19. All active assessments must be completed on or before June 19. Portfolios and assessment materials will no longer be accessible after the June 19 discontinuation date.

In addition, the Louisiana Mentor Teacher Assessment Series will be paused effective June 19 for updates. The revised model will launch on June 24 and will include a price increase to \$500 for the assessment series.

Please contact MentorandContentLeaders@la.gov.

Educator Recognition

2025 School Support, Health Provider, and Physical Activity Award Finalists

The LDOE is pleased to announce the [2025 finalists for the School Support, Health Provider, and Physical Activity Awards](#). These outstanding honorees are making remarkable strides in their schools and communities, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to student success and well-being. Their efforts exemplify the very best of Louisiana's education system.

All honorees will be recognized at the BESE meeting in Baton Rouge on June 3, followed by a special celebration at the Old State Capitol. The overall honorees will be named for the Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year and the School Health Service Provider of the Year award programs.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

2025 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Nominees from Louisiana

Three Louisiana schools have been selected for their innovative environmental education efforts to reduce impact and costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure sustainability.

The nominees are:

- Ecole Bilingue De La Nouvelle-Orléans
- Scotlandville Pre-Engineering Magnet Academy
- Westdale Middle School

Representatives from these schools will be recognized at the June 3 BESE meeting.

Please contact environmentaleducation@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 receive our next monthly newsletter.

PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION

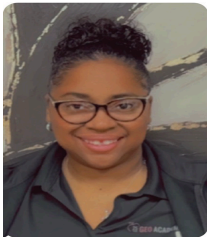
If you have an extraordinary building-level leader you would like to recommend to be highlighted in future newsletters, please submit information about the outstanding leader using the [LDOE Principal's Newsletter Leader Spotlight Nomination Form](#). This note of appreciation will be included in our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



Charletta Williams, Wedgewood Elementary, East Baton Rouge Parish

“Ms. Williams leads by example by consistently modeling expectations and taking the time to clearly explain every task she asks others to perform.”

Submitted by: Evelina Victor



India Tate, GEO Prep Mid City, GEO Academies - GBR

“Ms. Tate leads with excellence, holding her staff to high standards while supporting them every step of the way. Through her consistent modeling of positive behaviors, she fosters a culture of excellence that elevates both student outcomes and staff performance.”

Submitted by: Trayvonia Duhe

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

Important Dates For School Leaders	
Louisiana Aspiring Educators Summer Academy Applications Due	May 20
Foundations of Freedom: Summer Civics Institute Registration Due	July 1
The New Teacher Experience: Summer Kick-Off Registration Due	July 16
Numeracy Training Deadline	August 1