

# LOUISIANA PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

A Resource to Inform and Celebrate  
Louisiana's Building-Level Leaders

**April 18, 2024**

## In This Issue

- [Principal's Corner](#)
- [LDOE Corner](#)
- [Announcements](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Academics](#)
- [Principal Newsletter Signup](#)
- [Principal Appreciation](#)
- [Dates to Consider](#)

## Principal's Corner



As a school leader, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact that tutoring opportunities can have on student success. Tutoring provides personalized support and guidance that empowers students to overcome academic challenges, strengthen their skills, and achieve their full potential.

Tutoring opportunities have had a profound impact on student success within our educational community. Tutoring serves as a vital resource that complements classroom instruction and addresses the learning needs of our students.

Through tutoring, our students receive personalized support and guidance tailored to their individual academic challenges and goals. This targeted assistance not only enhances their understanding of course material but also cultivates a deeper sense of confidence and self-assurance in their abilities.

Tutoring plays a crucial role in improving academic performance. Students who participate in tutoring consistently demonstrate higher levels of achievement, as evidenced by improved grades, test scores, and overall academic progress. By providing additional reinforcement and clarification on challenging concepts, tutoring empowers students to succeed academically and realize their full potential.

Moreover, tutoring fosters a positive learning environment where students feel supported, valued, and encouraged to excel. As school leaders, it is our responsibility to ensure that tutoring opportunities are readily accessible to all students who may benefit from them. By prioritizing the availability and quality of tutoring services, we can further promote student engagement and achievement throughout our school community.

Finally, tutoring is not merely a supplemental resource but a cornerstone of our commitment to student success. By embracing tutoring opportunities, we empower our students to overcome obstacles, reach their academic goals, and thrive in their educational journey. Together, let us continue to champion tutoring as a catalyst for student success and academic excellence within our school.

**Hazel Regis-Buckels, School Leader, Kenilworth Science and Technology Charter Academy**

## LDOE Corner



To conclude the 2023-2024 school year, elementary educators are working hard to complete the end-of-year K-3 Literacy Screener. This literacy screening tool is essential to identifying students who may encounter reading difficulties. Teachers should utilize the screener's results to set and monitor literacy goals and provide assistance with core instruction. Literacy tutoring is also available to students in grades K-3 who score below proficiency on the literacy screener at the beginning of the year.

In an effort to provide families with additional opportunities to advance their child's literacy development, including during the summer, the LDOE launched a literacy tutoring program for eligible public school students in grades K-5. [The Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring Program](#), part of the Louisiana Tutoring Initiative, provides \$1,000 digital tutoring vouchers to eligible students.

Through this initiative, the LDOE has developed an online platform for families to log in, enter their student's information, and if eligible, receive a digital voucher for tutoring. Families may then select from a list of state-approved tutoring providers for their child to receive online or in-person literacy tutoring. Tutoring providers are approved through the LDOE and are certified teachers in elementary or reading or have a degree in education, English, or another subject indicative of expertise in reading and literacy. Tutors are also trained in the science of reading.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Public school student
- K-3 students are eligible if they scored below proficient on their beginning of the year screener
- Students in grades 4-5 are eligible if they scored below Mastery in ELA on the spring 2023 LEAP assessment

The program launch toolkit, located in the [Literacy Library](#) under the Instruction, Intervention, and Extension pillar or the Families pillar, will provide you with all the tools necessary to share information with parents, students, and faculty, including the following:

- Family letter and marketing flyer
- Marketing flyer for distribution in school offices and libraries
- Email and text message templates to be used in school newsletters or school communications to parents about the new program

We hope that Louisiana's youngest learners will reach their full potential as readers with resources like the literacy screener and Steve Carter Literacy Tutoring. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact [louisianaliteracy@la.gov](mailto:louisianaliteracy@la.gov).

**Holly Manson, Education Program Consultant, Office of Teaching and Learning, Literacy**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Principal's Webinar Series**

The LDOE hosts a monthly webinar series for current school leaders and principal supervisors on best practices in school leadership aligned to the state's priorities. Each month, the webinar features national and Louisiana experts sharing strategies and tools on a specific topic necessary for being effective in the school leader role.

**Webinar Date and Time:** April 29 at 1 p.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97054177103?pwd=Vm9DYmZpNXhKSGQrVnJwSjVmb25aZz09>

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

**Meeting ID#:** 970 5417 7103

**Passcode:** 310386

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

### **LEADS Informational Webinars**

The LDOE will host a series of informational webinars for targeted audiences. The webinars will provide an overview of the Louisiana Educator Advancement and Development System (LEADS). Topics include policy updates, evaluation components, and the evaluation process.

#### **LEADS Webinar for Counselors**

**Webinar Date and Time:** April 22 at 12 p.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96506543098>

**Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799

**Meeting ID#:** 965 0654 3098

#### **LEADS Webinar for Teachers**

**Webinar Date and Time:** April 22 at 3:30 p.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91593299793>

**Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799

**Meeting ID#:** 915 9329 9793

#### **LEADS Webinar for Teachers**

**Webinar Date and Time:** April 24 at 4 p.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96895644525>

**Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799

**Meeting ID#:** 968 9564 4525

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

## RESOURCES

### EDUCATOR TALENT AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

#### **Teacher Leader Summit**

The 12th annual [Teacher Leader Summit](#) will be held May 28-30, in New Orleans at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The Teacher Leader Summit app, including session schedules and additional information, will be available through Cvent beginning April 19. Download the app from the [App Store](#) (Apple) or [Google Play](#).

Please contact [events@emergentmethod.com](mailto:events@emergentmethod.com) with questions.

#### **LDOE Out-of-Field Certification Support**

LDOE is making [funding available to reduce barriers for certified teachers](#) teaching out of their field. Through this funding, the LDOE will be covering both the Praxis exam costs as well as the cost associated with updating teaching certificates. School Site Leaders should send the [Out-of-Field Praxis Support Application](#) to those teachers currently teaching on an out-of-field (OFAT) certificate. Educators should complete the application before July 19.

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

## ACADEMICS

### ELA

#### **Accessing ELA Guidebooks 3.0 (2018) Content - Important Notice**

Beginning in June, the open access version ELA Guidebooks 3.0 (2018) curriculum for grades 3-8 will be available exclusively on [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#) via bulk download. While this content can be downloaded and a personal version saved to Google Drive, only the content accessed directly on Louisiana Curriculum Hub will contain updates to materials, such as the text access document.

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

### MATH

#### **Family Math Engagement Page**

The [Family Math Engagement](#) provides math resources for schools to promote continued summer engagement in math learning with families. Educators can find available resources on the families, caregivers, and communities pillar graphic on the [Math Refresh](#) page.

Resources available include:

- Grab & Go activities for families; and
- resources to support families with Zearn.

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

## **Zearn for Summer Learning**

Summer learning materials should be of the same quality as those used during the school year. The LDOE partnership with Zearn, continuing through summer 2026, provides a great tool to support continued summer learning for students in formal programs and those learning at home. For ideas on implementing Zearn in summer programs or supporting parents this summer, reference the [Summer Math Learning](#) guidance.

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

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **Updates to Social Studies Course Frameworks**

Updated [Social Studies Course Frameworks](#) for grades 3 through 8, high school Civics, and high school U.S. History will be released on May 20. LDOE updated these suggested resources to better support teachers in implementing the [2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#) (LSSSS).

Course Frameworks retain resources for setting context and developing content knowledge, exploring primary and secondary sources, and developing and expressing claims. Document-based questions have been added to primary sources and possible student responses to questions to support teachers during instructional planning.

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

## **SCIENCE**

### **Save the Date: High School Science Summer Professional Learning**

To continue support for systems transitioning to OpenSciEd courses in high school biology or chemistry, the LDOE is hosting regional professional learning sessions for educators. Registration is free for any public or public charter school educator to attend the sessions. More details will come, but educators are encouraged to save the following dates for these opportunities.

- July 15-19 (location to be determined)
- July 22-26 (location to be determined)

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

## **DIVERSE LEARNERS**

### **Shaywitz DyslexiaScreen Training & FAQ**

The required training video for kindergarten teachers to view before administering the Shaywitz DyslexiaScreen has been released; as well as an [FAQ document](#).

Training Video Link: [https://www.brainshark.com/pearsonassessments/LDOE\\_Shaywitz](https://www.brainshark.com/pearsonassessments/LDOE_Shaywitz)

#### **Instructions:**

1. Enter the password: tr@ining\$r360

2. Complete the guest book by entering first name, last name, email address and district.
3. Check the "Remember me" checkbox to automatically complete the guestbook upon subsequent visit.

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

## EDTECH

### **LACUE Tech Leader Summit**

Registration is now open for the [LACUE Tech Leader Summit!](#) Network with fellow educators and hone your tech leadership expertise.

The call for proposals is also open! Share your expertise and inspire fellow educators by submitting your [session proposal](#) by April 26.

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

## PRINCIPAL NEWSLETTER SIGNUP

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.

### **Chantell Walker, West St. John Elementary, St. John the Baptist Parish**

"Mrs. Walker does everything in such a professional way and exemplifies true leadership to help the students at West St. John Elementary School and the community. She is a true champion for high standards and student engagement!"  
submitted by Jaimee Williams

### **Stacia Andricain, Saint Joseph's Academy, Diocese of Baton Rouge**

"Stacia is level headed, fair, and inspiring leader whose objective and drive is based on student gains. She provides a well rounded environment for academics, service, and personal growth."  
*submitted by Dr. Ghedy Matus*

## DATES TO CONSIDER FOR BUILDING-LEVEL LEADERS

### Important Dates

- [LACUE Session Proposals](#) due: April 26
- [Monthly Principal webinar](#): April 29 at 1 p.m.
- [Teacher Leader Summit](#): May 28-30