



Principal's Newsletter



September 19, 2024

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LEADS Corner

We have concluded the LER and LLR trainings. Your passion and engagement throughout the trainings demonstrate your dedication towards advancing student achievement. Just a reminder to follow the [steps](#) in the LEADS certification email to complete the certification assessment so that you may begin your observations as soon as possible. As we move through the learning year, below are a few steps to continue a smooth transition to LEADS.

- Schools orient educators to the Evaluation Learning Year components and processes.
- School leaders develop a long-range plan for the instructional leadership team to build depth-of-knowledge, inter-rater reliability, and coaching and feedback skills.
- School leaders develop a long-range plan for teacher collaboration professional learning opportunities, where educators/teachers build LER depth-of knowledge and self-assessment skills.
- Designated observers and evaluators of educators develop and implement an observation schedule for educator evaluation that account for the length of the cycle, a pre-conference (announced observation only), observation, observer of record, post-conference, data entry, and follow-up coaching cycle).

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

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Announcements

LEADS Implementation September Monthly Webinars Rescheduled

The September [LEADS Implementation Monthly Webinars](#) have been rescheduled due Hurricane Francine. Webinars will be recorded and published in the [LEADS Library](#).

School Observation Schedules

- Webinar Date and Time: September 23 at 9 a.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99470752162?pwd=2qbpIT7zf8vmXspltbUSrdavhNJOQf.1>
- Webinar Phone Number: 1 312 626 6799
- Meeting ID#: 994 7075 2162

The BOY Conference Goal-Setting Process for Leaders

- Webinar Date and Time: September 23 at 11:30 a.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91654213527?pwd=PFXWoLlzR9Orx8ECjmaTsaBvXIm2Y7.1>
- Webinar Phone Number: 1 312 626 6799
- Meeting ID#: 916 5421 3527

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Elementary School Counselor Survey

Per [R.S. 17:3005](#), “School counselors shall provide preventive and developmental counseling services to all public elementary school students in kindergarten through grade six in order to prepare them for middle, junior, and senior high school responsibilities and their social and physical development.”

Elementary school counselors and administrators should complete the [Elementary School Counselor Report Survey](#) to provide feedback on your school counseling programs by October 1.

Please contact candace.joseph@la.gov with questions

Interests and Opportunities

The I&O Jotform Survey for the 2024-2025 school year opened on Monday, August 26. Informational letters with the Jotform link and unique access codes were emailed to principals and accountability contacts. The survey will remain open for school leaders until Wednesday, November 6. In addition, the survey must be validated by your superintendent or their designee by Wednesday, November 13. The 2024-2025 Interests and Opportunities Menu and Guidance can be found in the [Accountability Library](#).

Please contact accountability@la.gov with any questions.

Seeking Nominations for Excellent Educators

The LDOE is currently seeking nominations for Teacher and Principal of the Year, Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year, and New Teacher of the Year. (Candidates for the New Teacher of the Year program must have less than one year of teaching experience.)

By **September 30**, please submit nominations via the [nominations portal](#). Multiple nominations are accepted, as well as self-nominations. Upon portal closure, the nomination information will be shared with school systems for their consideration.

Please share the information for the [nominations portal](#) with stakeholders and encourage everyone to nominate outstanding teachers and leaders.

Please contact the following with questions.

- Teacher/Principal of the Year- excellenteducators@la.gov
- New Teacher of the Year- laurie.carlton@la.gov
- Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year- shallan.jones@la.gov

Seeking Nominations for Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year, School Health Service Provider of the Year, and School Physical Activity Awards

The LDOE is currently seeking nominations for the following awards initiatives - Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year, School Health Service Provider of the Year, and the School Physical Activity Awards. The nomination portal is now open and will close on **September 30**.

By **September 30**, please submit nominations via the [nominations portal](#). Multiple nominations are accepted, as well as self-nominations. Upon portal closure, the nomination information will be shared with school systems for their consideration.

Please share the information for the [nominations portal](#) with stakeholders and encourage everyone to nominate outstanding health providers, employees or schools.

See more information on the [Awards](#) page.

Please contact the following with questions.

- Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year - excellenteducators@la.gov
- School Health Service Provider - elizabeth.duncan@la.gov
- School Physical Activity Award - healthyschools@la.gov

Resources

Educator Opportunities

BESE Tuition Program for Teachers: Accepting Spring 2025 Applications until October 15

The [BESE Tuition Program for Teachers](#) provides tuition funding for selected classroom teachers to enroll in courses at regionally accredited colleges or universities in Louisiana. Program and application details can be found on the [Continuing Opportunities for Educators page](#).

For questions about the BESE Tuition Program for Teachers, visit the [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) or contact louisianaleaders@la.gov.

Green Ribbon Schools Application Available in September

The LDOE is excited to announce that the application to be recognized as a [U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School](#) for the 2024-2025 school year will be available on the [Environmental Education](#) web page in September. Eligibility requirements include that schools, systems, and early learning centers show progress in

- reducing environmental impacts and costs;
- improving health and wellness; and
- providing effective environmental and sustainability education.

To assist interested applicants, the LDOE will host a series of webinars to help potential applicants understand the three pillars of the application and the application process. The [first application support webinar](#) is scheduled for September 23 at 4:30 p.m. Final applications are due on December 16 by 5 p.m.

Additional information is available on the [Environmental Education](#) web page.

Please contact environmentaleducation@la.gov with questions.

LSTA/NSTA Joint Conference

The Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA) is co-hosting the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) fall [conference in New Orleans](#) on November 6-9! There is a [Louisiana-specific pathway](#) featuring sessions from LSTA and LDOE in addition to other exciting sessions. [Registration](#) is open now, but the rates increase after September 27. LSTA members receive a discounted registration price. Interested educators can apply for assistance with registration and travel with [LSTA Travel Grants](#) and [NSTA scholarships](#) before the mid-September deadlines.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent And Workforce Development

The New Teacher Experience: Professional Learning Modules

The LDOE, in partnership with A+PEL, has developed monthly professional learning modules on topics that are critical for new teacher success. These modules include online asynchronous content followed by an in person learning lab where participants practice and apply these concepts. These five modules are designed to build learning throughout the year.

Module 1: Classroom Management/Classroom Environment

Module 2: Standards and Curriculum

Module 3: Data Literacy

Module 4: Literacy for 21st Century Learners

Module 5: Parent and Community Engagement

This year, we are offering 245 complimentary seats. We are reserving half for the northern location (Monroe) and half for the southern location (Port Allen). *We still have complimentary seats for Module 2-Module 5.*

Teachers will be asked to receive approval to attend from their school leader. [Registration](#) will remain open until mid-October.

Once teachers complete the registration, participants will receive details on selected training locations. Participants will also receive an invitation to access the online asynchronous modules.

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

Quarter 1 Pre-Educator Pathway System Lead Professional Learning Community

Offered quarterly, the Pre-Educator Pathway System Lead Professional Learning Community are virtual opportunities for Pre-Educator Pathway/Grow Your Own System Leads to share best practices related to developing and expanding access to the Pre-Educator Pathway.

Webinar date/time: October 3 at 10:00 a.m.

Webinar link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99470752162?pwd=2qbpIT7zf8vmXspltbUSrdavhNJOOf.1>

Meeting ID: 994 7075 2162

Phone: 346-248-7799

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

Educational Leadership Alternative Pathway 4 LDOE Training

The Educational Leadership (EDL) Alternative Pathway 4 offers a unique opportunity for current MPA, MBA, or JD holders, and honorably discharged commissioned officers from the US military to obtain an Educational Leadership Certificate. To be eligible, candidates must complete training provided by the LDOE and have passed either the School Leadership Licensure Assessment or the Louisiana Leadership Assessment Series. For the 2024-2025 academic year, interested applicants should [complete the application](#).

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. Any current school/system leaders interested in serving as a mentor for novice principals are encouraged to complete the [mentor application](#) by **October 25**.

Please contact Louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Certification Resources

Educator Certification Resources and Updates to Online Certification Portal

[Certification Bulletin, Bulletin 746](#) and the [Online Teacher Certification Portal, Teach LA Live!](#) support educators in maintaining their certification.

The online certification portal allows educators to submit certification applications (where allowed in policy), or connect with a Certification Specialist to [ask questions](#). Current application processing time is approximately 15-25 business days. Question responses are provided via email in approximately 3-5 business days. The portal question and application system will be redesigned and implemented in phases. Phase 1 includes the updating of the question submission system. The testing window occurred this summer and full implementation is set for August. End users will need a [MyLa account](#) to submit questions in the new system.

Please contact certification@la.gov with questions.

ELA

ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Fluency Utilized to Engage Learners (FUEL) Now Available

The [FUEL resources](#) aligned to the ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) units are now available on the [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#). Each unit's materials are located in the Supports folder on the unit homepage. The FUEL materials are aligned resources for students to build their fluency by providing opportunities for practice while keeping students engaged with texts from their current unit.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Math

Act 260 Numeracy Training

At this time, all teachers should have access to the system-specific required grades 4-8 [Act 260 Numeracy Course](#) in Canopy. The introduction, which includes the Pre-Assessment and the first Framing Dispositions module, should be completed along with content Modules 1-2 to stay at the [suggested pace](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Accelerate: Tutoring Guidance for High Schools

[Guidance for high school math tutoring](#) is available on the [Louisiana Math](#) page to support unfinished learning in Algebra I and Geometry. The guidance includes Accelerate Math tutoring materials, detailing both the student selection process and the implementation of the materials with alignment to the most widely implemented high-quality instructional materials.

Please contact stem@la.gov with questions.

Zearn Checkpoint

Now is the time to set expectations and check data for [Zearn implementation](#) in the classroom. Reflect on the key factors of planning, behavior management, engagement, and goal setting using the Zearn Class Reports. Reflecting on this data supports teacher success with the [high-impact tool](#), Zearn.

Consider the following:

- 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?

Also, [Zearn/Louisiana Leader Collaboration](#) is scheduled monthly on Tuesdays throughout the school year to discuss implementation with leaders from systems across the state. The next meeting is [September 17 at 9 am](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies

New Assessment Resource: Using LEAP Social Studies Rubrics

A new assessment resource, Using LEAP Social Studies Rubrics, is now available in the [Assessment Guidance library](#). This document includes information about

- Differentiating between constructed-response (CR) and extended-response (ER) questions
- Defining language used in the LEAP CR and ER rubrics
- Creating questions compatible with the LEAP CR and ER rubrics
- Adapting the LEAP CR and ER rubrics to classroom use
- Scoring using the LEAP CR and ER rubrics

Please share this new resource with system supervisors, instructional support leaders, and social studies teachers.

Contact Lillian.palmisano@la.gov with questions or comments about this resource.

Science

New Science Resources Available

Updated science resources are available to assist with school system planning and implementation of high-quality science curricula for the 2024-2025 school year. These resources can be found on the [K-12 Science Resources](#) web page:

- [High-Quality Science Curriculum](#)
- [OpenSciEd Purchasing and Professional Learning](#)
- OpenSciEd pilot guides for [Biology](#), [Chemistry](#), and [Physics](#)
- Grade 8 OpenSciEd implementation guides for the [original](#) and [Activate Certified](#) versions

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Computer Science and STEM

Public Comment Open for K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science

The [K-12 Computer Science Standards Writing Committee](#) has successfully completed the development of Louisiana's new computer science standards. Educators are encouraged to review the [Draft of the K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science](#) and [provide feedback](#). Public comment on the standards will be open throughout September and will close September 27, at 4 p.m.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

School System STEM Seal Honorees

At the August Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) Meeting, the top three school system earners of STEM Diploma Seals in the 2023-2024 school year were honored. 573 Silver and 367 Gold STEM Seals were awarded statewide in 2023-2024. Congratulations to East Baton Rouge Parish Schools, Lafayette Parish School System, and Caddo Parish Public Schools for being the three districts with the most STEM Diploma Seals earned.

For more information about STEM Pathways and STEM Diploma Seals please visit the [Louisiana STEM Initiative](#) web page.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana STEM Pathways Renaissance

All freshmen students beginning with the 2024-2025 school year should follow the new [STEM Renaissance Pathways](#). A [training webinar](#) is hosted on the [Louisiana STEM Initiative](#) web page. All current students in grades 10, 11, and 12 will follow the STEM Pathway guidance under the archived section of the [Louisiana STEM Initiative](#) web page.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Transportation Research Center STEM Grant Opportunity

The Louisiana Transportation Research Center STEM Grant program will award up to \$500 grants to full-time Louisiana K-12 classroom teachers to purchase STEM classroom activities and consumable materials for STEM lessons. Any STEM-discipline teacher may apply for this grant using the [online application](#). The application portal is open from September 23 until October 18, 2024.

Please contact LTRCOutreach@la.gov with questions.

Ed Tech

AI Guidance

The LDOE has released new [AI Guidance](#) designed to support educators in understanding and utilizing artificial intelligence (AI) tools within their classrooms. This resource explores the benefits and challenges associated with AI and provides practical tips for using AI safely and effectively. It also showcases examples of how AI can be leveraged to enhance student learning.

Visit the [LDOE Digital Learning](#) page for resources on AI in education.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Kami Webinars

The LDOE is excited to offer a series of [webinars](#) this fall designed to help educators leverage Kami in their classrooms.

Webinar Topics and Dates:

- Kami Updates: Join us to explore Kami's transformative updates! Discover its redesigned, more accessible interface, intuitive icons, Questions AI integration, and enhanced Class View for educators.
 - [September 24 at 3 p.m.](#)
 - [September 25 at 4 p.m.](#)

- Kami for Diverse Learners: Ensure inclusive learning for all! Learn how Kami's built-in accessibility features empower all students to participate and succeed in your classroom.
 - [October 29 at 3 p.m.](#)
 - [October 30 at 4 p.m.](#)
- Feedback Strategies with Kami: Join us to discover how Kami supports effective feedback in your high-quality instructional materials! Learn research-based strategies for providing clear, actionable, and engaging feedback that fosters growth and empowers learners to develop an awareness of their learning. We'll explore Kami's tools for real-time collaboration, multimedia annotations, and personalized feedback loops.
 - [December 3 at 3 p.m.](#)
 - [December 4 at 4 p.m.](#)

Sessions will be recorded and posted on the [LDOE Digital Learning](#) website.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

DIBELS Resources

The literacy team has released several resources to help with the successful administration of DIBELS, as well as guide teachers through using DIBELS as an instructional driver. [Best Practices for Administering DIBELS Benchmark Assessments](#) is a guide that walks users through best practices when administering benchmarks, as well as a library of videos to assist with administration. The [DIBELS Professional Development Series for K-3 Literacy Educators](#) takes teachers and leaders from administering the benchmarks, all the way through using DIBELS as an instructional lever with training on grouping, progress monitoring, and intervening with integrity. This document includes a comprehensive suite of training videos. For users on Canopy, the DIBELS professional learning series offers an interactive series with connections between the screener, core, and the science of reading, as well as instructional best practices around the screener. The course code is 29B1F143.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Decoding Multisyllabic Words in Grades 3-12

The literacy team has recently released [Decoding Multisyllabic Words in Grades 3-12](#). This resource includes front matter that explains the concepts of word analysis and structural analysis. The resource also includes several activities to engage students in multisyllabic word reading, as well as videos to assist with implementation.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Student Opportunities

New: U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship Opportunity

The LDOE and the [William Randolph Hearst Foundation](#) are pleased to announce the launch of the 2025 United States Senate Youth Program. Two outstanding students from Louisiana will be selected to participate, in person, in a series of meetings from March 1-8, 2025. Upon participation in all of the required meetings, each delegate will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship from the Hearst Foundation. The LDOE requests your assistance in selecting these students.

Please encourage juniors or seniors who hold elected or appointed offices in school or community groups listed in the [national program brochure](#) to submit a Louisiana [application packet](#) which can be found on the [LDOE website](#). Please ensure that students understand the rules and regulations governing this competition. For test security reasons, the test secure essay topics will only be released to school systems and will not be available on our website.

High school personnel should contact suzette.rabalais@la.gov as soon as a student request is made for the essay topics.

The names of the students selected by each high school and their application portfolios must be submitted through the [application](#) portal no later than October 4, at 11:59 p.m. Finalists will be notified by October 25, for the final phase of the selection process on November 8. Applications are currently open.

If you need further assistance, please contact suzette.rabalais@la.gov.

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.

LEADS Teacher Newsletter

The [LEADS Teacher Newsletter](#) has been developed to provide teachers with additional information to support implementation of LEADS; please share this link with teachers so that they may be kept up-to-date. The newsletter is designed for teachers, but all educators are welcome to subscribe.

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.

Sharon Simms, University View Academy

“Sharon Sims' forward-thinking leadership approach is instrumental in creating a thriving, progressive learning community at UVA. Her support has cultivated a school where creativity flourishes, setting a new standard for online education.” *submitted by Raven Cole*

Dawn Lobell, Hynes Charter School, Hynes Charter School Corporation

“Dawn values and supports the well being of all in her school. She challenges all to continually reach for new heights.” *submitted by Thomas Wright*

Dates For School Leaders

Important Dates	
LEADS Implementation Webinar: School Observation Schedules	September 23 at 9 a.m.
LEADS Implementation Webinar: BOY Conference Goal-Setting Process for Leaders	September 23 at 11:30 a.m.
Green Ribbon Schools application webinar	September 23 at 4:30 p.m.
Kami's transformative updates webinar	September 24 at 3 p.m.
Kami's transformative updates webinar	September 25 at 4 p.m.
Elementary School Counselor Report Survey due	October 1