



# Principal's Newsletter



November 14, 2024

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## LEADS Corner

As you continue through the LEADS process, observations are conducted to provide feedback and foster professional growth. The [Formal Observation Cycle of Support](#) demonstrates how the PGP/Coaching Plan extends and supports the identified refinement area. Your passion with this process shows your dedication towards advancing student achievement. Below are a few steps to continue a smooth transition to LEADS.

- School leaders develop a long-range plan for teacher collaboration and professional learning opportunities, where educators/teachers build LER depth of knowledge and self-assessment skills.
- Designated observers/evaluators conduct the first cycle of observations and the subsequent follow-up coaching and support cycle.
- School instructional leadership teams conduct trend analysis with observation data from the first cycle of educator observations.

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

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

## Announcements

### **Teacher Leader Summit: Save the Date**

The 13th annual Teacher Leader Summit will be held June 10-12, 2025, in New Orleans at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Registration and presenter application details will be released this fall.

Early Bird Registration will open on January 6 on a first-come, first-served basis and will close on February 3. Regular registration will open on February 4 and will close on March 14 or at sellout.

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

### **2023-2024 Evaluation Close-Out**

All 2023-2024 evaluations for teachers, counselors, and librarians must be finalized in [CIS](#) by November 29. Leader evaluations will be due following the release of School Performance Scores (SPS) later this winter.

As a reminder, all 2024-2025 evaluation data should be entered directly into the Louisiana Evaluation System (LES) for all schools, regardless of the chosen evaluation type; there will be no transfer of scores or spreadsheet uploads. It is encouraged to collaborate with your LES system contact to ensure that you have the correct access for LES to enter your observation data.

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

## RESOURCES

### Educator Opportunities

#### **Teacher and Principal of the Year Application Online Portals Are Now Open**

The online portals for coordinators and state-level applicants for Teacher and Principal of the Year are now open. All application materials and links to the online portals are available in the [Library](#) and on the [Awards](#) page.

All school systems are encouraged to select up to three teachers and three principals, one per division (elementary, middle, and high), as their local-level honorees and submit these selections to the state process. School systems without a formal selection process in place may elect to send their candidates directly to the state-level process. State-level applications are **due by January 15** and must be submitted via the online application portal.

The LDOE will host an informational Zoom for candidates and coordinators regarding the online portals and the Teacher and Principal of the Year application process. Please see the details listed below.

#### **Teacher and Principal of the Year Informational/Help Desk Calls for Coordinators/Candidates:**

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 10 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98542974992?pwd=NK5lH5FIGbS7l8qNYFbFgjUu9aIWEK.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346-248-7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 985 4297 4992
- **Passcode:** 116251

The dates and times of future webinars are listed in the [Informational Webinars for Candidates and Stakeholders document](#).

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

#### **Assessment Development Educator Review Committees**

The Division of Assessment Content will convene assessment committees for the LEAP and LEAP Connect assessments in January and February to:

- review newly developed items for alignment and content-related criteria (LEAP Connect), and
- review proposed stimuli/passages to ensure content alignment, the selections are clearly worded with grade-appropriate language, and the selections are appropriate for all Louisiana students. (Science and English)

Interested educators should access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees document](#) for information on exact dates, meeting details, and links to apply to participate on specific committees. The deadline to complete the applications is December 1.

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

## **LEADS Educator Monthly Newsletter**

The current 2024-2025 school year marks the final “Learning Year” of the newly reimagined teacher, leader and counselor evaluation process, LEADS. Statewide implementation will occur in the 2025-2026 school year.

To support educators through this transition, the LDOE has launched the LEADS Educator Newsletter, a monthly resource providing the latest tools, guidance and updates for teachers and leaders.

All educators are encouraged to [subscribe](#) to the LEADS Educator Newsletter and to share it with colleagues who may also benefit from this valuable information each month. Past newsletters are also available for review:

- [Welcome to the LEADS Newsletter](#)
- [The Importance of Self-Assessment](#)
- [Tips for Effectively Planning for Instruction](#)

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

## **Educator Talent And Workforce Development**

### **Teacher Leader Summit Presenter Application**

LDOE is looking for talented educators to apply to present sessions at this year’s Teacher Leader Summit. Presenter application will be accepted beginning December 9. Applicants are required to submit final presentations with their proposals.

The LDOE will host two informational webinars for participants to learn more about the application process and serving as a presenter at TLS 2025. Please see the details below.

Teacher Leader Summit Presenter Webinar:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 9 at 11 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97019807481?pwd=XsaGpqMtEahkvOmOsbEbbfEOmmO5bS.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346-248-7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 970 1980 7481
  
- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 9 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93417635967?pwd=svKO6qhEqOugeyZF1BbArBfLOOBgTU.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346-248-7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 934 1763 5967

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

### **Staffing and Scheduling Guidance “Maximize Efficiency: Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing”**

LDOE is releasing guidance for effective staffing and scheduling. “Maximize Efficiency: Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing” is a comprehensive, research-based guide focusing on how to create schedules that utilize all staff effectively and provide optimal learning opportunities for students. This guidance provides sample schedules based on national best practices.

Listed below are two opportunities to learn more about this guidance. The first opportunity is a one-hour webinar on December 6. The second opportunity is a half-day, in-person training. These in-person trainings will be held in Baton Rouge and Natchitoches. Links are provided below.

### **Elementary Schools Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing**

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 6 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95593185432?pwd=ZgzRr7VPYSbPdeDFHuDyWR5dl1clbu.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 955 9318 5432
- **Passcode:** 838420

### **Middle Schools Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing**

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 6 at 12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91726488905?pwd=bSDEqOmeCSpPxdctI9ns6Qq0XFixb6.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID#:** 917 2648 8905
- **Passcode:** 476767

### **High Schools Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing**

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 6 at 1:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93510088061?pwd=aKEltC1huUyBCgMpZ9eeXIYVPxYCfo.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID#:** 935 1008 8061
- **Passcode:** 914809

Registration is now open for the in-person trainings which are designed to assist schools and systems in developing dynamic and effective schedules aligned to best practices. Participation is of no cost to the school systems. School systems are encouraged to send those who are involved in the staffing and scheduling at the school level.

Registration is currently open on a first-come, first-served basis.

- January 14 morning session: [Elementary Schools Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge](#)
- January 14 afternoon session: [Secondary Schools Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge](#)
- January 15 morning session: [Elementary School Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing at Northwestern State University](#)
- January 15 afternoon session: [Secondary Schools Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing at Northwestern State University](#)

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

## **Math**

### **Act 260 Numeracy Professional Learning Checkpoint**

Teachers statewide are making progress in completing the [Act 260 Numeracy Course](#). As educators work through the course, they should consider the following tips:

- Teachers on pace to meet the August 2025 deadline should complete Modules 7 and 8 by the end of November.
- Participants should engage with thoughtful replies in discussions. Inaccurate or incomplete replies will be deleted, removing the progress made in the course.
- The post-test is now available. Teachers who have completed all 25 modules may now complete the post-test and print their certificates.

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

## **Zearn Reminders**

Regular monitoring and reflection on the key factors of planning, behavior management, engagement, and goal setting are essential to supporting [Zearn implementation](#).

[Admin Reports](#) allow leaders to monitor the following information:

- 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?

The LDOE has scheduled [Zearn Louisiana Leader Collaboration](#) on Tuesdays throughout the school year to discuss implementation with leaders from systems across the state. The next meeting is January 7 at 9 a.m.

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

## **Social Studies**

### **Bayou Bridges Instructional Slide Decks**

The LDOE is developing instructional slide decks to support the implementation of [Bayou Bridges](#) in grades 3-8. These Bayou Bridges instructional slide decks follow the Core Lesson of each chapter in each unit, providing teachers and students with access to the Big Idea; framing Questions; literal, inferential, and evaluative questions; visuals; checks for understanding; and scaffolded supports all in one convenient location.

Teachers should use the instructional decks along with the Student Reader as they implement the Core Lesson of each chapter to increase engagement, assist in lesson pacing, and complete formative checks for understanding. Slide decks can be accessed under grade-level materials on the [Bayou Bridges](#) webpage. The LDOE has released units 1 and 3 slide decks and will release the remaining units on a rolling basis throughout the school year.

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

## **Diverse Learners**

### **English Learner Institute**

The LDOE is excited to announce the upcoming English Learner Institute. The Institute will provide essential information and updates regarding English Learners. Registration is linked below.

Please make your calendars for the following days:

- [December 3](#)
- [February 4](#)
- [May 14](#)

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

### **National Training on Child Passenger Safety**

The LDOE is offering school districts the opportunity to send a team of four personnel for national training on Child Passenger Safety. Registration for [Special Education Transportation Training 2024 - 2025](#) is now open. School teams attending should consist of transportation administrators, special education administrators, occupational therapists, and physical therapists. There are new opportunities for training throughout the state during the Spring of 2025. All sessions will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The [National School Bus Curriculum](#) is an eight-hour course that provides an overview of the use of child safety restraint systems on school buses, focusing on children with disabilities and chronic conditions.

Participants will:

- learn about federal, state, and local laws, crash dynamics and forces, and occupant protection;
- learn about the types of occupant protection that can be used on school buses;
- gain knowledge on appropriate team assessments that lead to the appropriate selection of child safety restraints for individuals with disabilities who travel to school on buses;
- gain knowledge and skills through practice time that includes safely installing the child safety restraint system on the bus and also properly securing the occupant; and
- Learn about the securement of wheelchairs and emergency evacuation procedures.

Please contact [stephen.guccione@la.gov](mailto:stephen.guccione@la.gov) with any questions.

## Science

### **Green Ribbon Schools Application Open**

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 is open. 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 application process and its three pillars. The [next application support webinar](#) is scheduled for November 18 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](mailto:environmentaleducation@la.gov) with questions.

### **Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching**

Nominations are now open for the [2025 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching \(PAEMST\)](#). This award is the highest and most prestigious honor bestowed by the United States government specifically for recognizing K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teachers. This year's cycle will recognize teachers of grades 7-12. [Nominations](#) will close on February 6, 2025.

Please contact [info@paemist.org](mailto:info@paemist.org) or [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

### **Date Change: Monthly High School Science Support for Leaders**

The LDOE offers monthly support sessions for high school science leaders in schools or systems implementing [high-quality science instructional materials](#) (HQIM). These sessions provide leaders with professional learning grounded in HQIM and a space to collaborate with peers and state science specialists. While these sessions occur on the second Wednesday of each month, the November and December sessions will be combined due to the holidays. The next session will be held on December 3 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This session will focus on how to “Bridge Between LER and OpenSciEd Part III-Supports.” An updated invitation has been sent to current participants.

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) to be added to the monthly call and with questions.

## Computer Science and STEM

### **Mark Your Calendars: CS EdWeek 2024**

Computer Science Education Week (CS EdWeek) is a nationwide initiative to promote computer science education. CS EdWeek 2024 will take place from December 9-15, with the theme of the **Impacts of Computing**. Take this opportunity to incorporate computer science education experiences in the classroom using activities designed to be 30-45 minutes long and assembled by grade bands. In November, resources and activities will be available on the LDOE's computer science [webpage](#).

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

### **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. The exam training will occur from January through June 2025.

Refresher eight-hour exam sessions will be offered for teachers who participated in Energize in 2024 and want additional exam review before attempting the Praxis (5652) exam. Teachers may register for the [eight or 40-hour training](#) through the online form.

Please contact [energize@southeastern.edu](mailto:energize@southeastern.edu) with questions.

### **Ignite Initiative Training 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 opens soon, with training beginning in January 2025. Sign up to learn more by completing the [Ignite Initiative Interest Form](#).

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

## Ed Tech

### **Enhance Feedback Strategies with Upcoming Kami Webinar**

The LDOE is pleased to announce an upcoming webinar in our Kami webinar series focused on leveraging Kami to provide effective and engaging student feedback. This informative session will include best practices for delivering clear, actionable feedback and utilizing Kami's diverse toolset for collaborative learning and multimedia annotations. This session will also discuss developing personalized feedback approaches to foster individual student growth.

This webinar presents a valuable opportunity to refine feedback practices and optimize the use of Kami in the classroom.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 9 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92812113006>

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

## **LACUE Registration**

The [Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators](#) (LACUE) annual conference will be held in New Orleans from December 10-12. Don't miss this chance to explore the latest in edtech, network with fellow educators, and learn from inspiring speakers.

Please contact [lacue@lacue.org](mailto:lacue@lacue.org) with questions.

## **Literacy**

The Louisiana Art and Science of Teaching Reading Part 1 is now available on the [Louisiana Professional Learning Platform](#). Part 1 includes six modules with the following topics:

- The Science and Art of Teaching Reading
- Science of Reading
- Assessment
- Oral Language
- Phonological Awareness
- Phonics: Decoding, Encoding, and Word Study

The course code is **8CBF0261**. Part 2 will be released this winter.

## **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.

## **Dates For School Leaders**

<b>Important Dates</b>	
<a href="#">Green Ribbon Schools Application support webinar</a>	November 18 at 4:30 p.m.
<a href="#">Elementary Schools Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing</a>	December 6 at 10:30 a.m.
<a href="#">Middle Schools Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing</a>	December 6 at 12 p.m.
<a href="#">High Schools Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing</a>	December 6 at 1:30 p.m.
<a href="#">Kami webinar</a>	December 9 at 4 p.m.