

Principal's Newsletter

December 19, 2024

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LEADS Corner

As you continue through the LEADS process, keep in mind that feedback is fundamental to a growth-oriented system and teachers appreciate and deserve valuable feedback, especially following a formal observation. The reflection and feedback on teaching and learning are rooted in student outcomes. Your passion with this process demonstrates 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 professional learning opportunities, where educators/teachers build LER depth of knowledge and self-assessment skills. This plan should align with the instructional leadership team's learning (extended LER indicator deep dives, connections to HQIM implementation, connections to student work).
- 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.
- For eligible educators, designated observers/evaluators of educators at each school conduct the second cycle of observations and the subsequent follow-up coaching and support cycle.

The <u>Guide for School Leaders: Planning for Implementation</u> is an available resource to support LEADS implementation.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

RESOURCES

Educator Opportunities

Louisiana's Teacher/Principal of the Year Applications: Due January 15

Teacher/Principal of the Year applications are due by midnight on January 15. 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.

State-level applications must be submitted via an online application portal, which is now open. Please see below for information regarding the online portals.

- **Coordinators** are to submit the names/info of their school system level honorees (one for elementary, middle and high) in the <u>Coordinator's Online Portal</u>. Coordinators may refer to the <u>Coordinator's Online Portal Guide</u> for more information.
- **State-level candidates** are to submit their applications in the <u>Candidate's Online Portal</u>. Candidates may refer to the <u>Candidate's Online Portal Guide</u> for more information.

The LDOE will host an informational meeting for candidates and coordinators regarding the online portal and the application process. Please see the details listed below.

- Webinar Date and Time: January 8 at 4 p.m.
- Webinar Link: https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97138324791?pwd=9HZhmYqlpyWS4kRX4bSEzUab4hn48N.1
- Webinar Phone Number: 346 248 7799
- Meeting ID#: 971 3832 4791
- **Passcode:** 506603

The dates and times of future webinars are listed in the <u>Informational Webinars for Candidates and Stakeholders</u> <u>document</u>.

All application materials and timelines are available in the <u>Library</u> on the <u>Awards</u> page. If any issues are anticipated or encountered when submitting applications, candidates should complete the <u>Online Portal Help Desk Form</u>.

Please contact <u>excellenteducators@la.gov</u> with questions.

New Teacher of the Year: Informational Overview for Candidates

School systems may select up to three new teachers (one for elementary, middle, and high school each) to move to the state competition. State candidates must submit their applications in the New Teacher of the Year online application portal by January 24.

The LDOE will host one more optional call to support teachers as they prepare their state-level applications and navigate the online application portal.

- Webinar Date and Time: January 15 at 4 p.m.
- Webinar Link: https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92085647820?pwd=GiP8204HKmZrFEXxYRy2XexgeRdaou.1
- Webinar Phone Number: 346 248 7799
- Meeting ID#: 920 8564 7820
- Passcode: 121463

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

Educator Talent And Workforce Development

LEADS Training Modules

Asynchronous training modules for teachers and counselors are now available in the <u>Louisiana Educator</u> <u>Advancement and Development System (LEADS) Public Collection</u> in the <u>Professional Learning Platform</u>. The <u>Louisiana Educator Evaluation Training for Teachers</u> provides a deeper understanding of the Louisiana Educator Rubric and evaluation process. The <u>Louisiana Counselor Evaluation Training for Counselors</u> provides a deeper understanding of the Louisiana Counselor Rubric and evaluation process. The LEADS Public Collection also contains additional resources to assist with LEADS implementation.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Evaluation System (LES)

LES is live, and all 2024-2025 evaluation data (observations, SLTs, PGP/Coaching Plan) for educators can now be entered. Even if using legacy systems (COMPASS or approved alternate observation tools) rather than transitioning to LEADS, data will be entered into LES. It is encouraged to collaborate with your LES system contact person to ensure that educators are able to <u>access</u> LES. The <u>LES 2024-2025 Timeline</u> is available in the <u>LEADS Library</u>.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Evaluation System (LES) Upcoming Support Webinars

The LDOE is hosting two webinars for system leaders and school leaders on common trends and valuable tips with LES. As a reminder, <u>LES</u> has replaced the Compass Information System (CIS), and all 2024-2025 evaluation data should be entered into LES. Even if a system is using a legacy evaluation (COMPASS or approved alternate rubric), data is reported in LES. These webinars will be useful to all systems, regardless of the rubric being used.

LES for System Leaders

- Webinar Date and Time: January 8 at 10 a.m.
- Webinar Link: https://ldoe.zoom.us/i/94719920144?pwd=G0vvvtlpZ2briAxb95sl0iBAI2WkRA.1
- Webinar Phone Number: 312-626-6799
- Meeting ID#: 947 1992 0144
- **Passcode:** 503528

LES for School Leaders

- Webinar Date and Time: January 9 at 1 p.m.
- Webinar Link: https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98570292306?pwd=EkoSuptyzcMgrmzNLhljvNf02gapE2.1
- Webinar Phone Number: 312-626-6799
- Meeting ID#: 985 7029 2306
- Passcode: 829512

Staffing and Scheduling Support

Registration is now open for in-person staffing and scheduling support designed to create dynamic, effective schedules aligned with best practices. Participants will engage in discussions, ask school-specific questions, and explore strategies to increase time for special educators and interventionists to work directly with students.

Dr. Nate Levinson and the New Solutions K-12 team will share research-supported best practices from across the nation. In collaboration with the LDOE, they have developed guidance to help leaders align practices to address Louisiana's educational priorities.

January 14 at 9 a.m.: <u>Elementary Schools Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing at the Claiborne</u> <u>Building in Baton Rouge</u>

January 14 at 1 p.m.: <u>Secondary Schools Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing at the Claiborne</u> Building in Baton Rouge

January 15 at 9 a.m.: <u>Elementary School Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing at Northwestern</u> <u>State University</u>

January 15 at 1 p.m.: <u>Secondary Schools Unlocking Effective Schedules through Smart Staffing at Northwestern</u> <u>State University</u>

Please contact SSIsuport@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2024) Update

All units for ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2024) are now available on the <u>Louisiana Curriculum Hub</u>. The updated units include an integrated writing progression that builds throughout the units and the school year. Unit texts are available through <u>American Reading Company</u> or your preferred text provider. The Unit Readers are available through <u>XanEdu</u>.

Please contact <u>elaguidebooks@la.gov</u> with questions.

Resources for School Librarians

The LDOE has resources available to support school librarians. The <u>Guidelines for Library Programs in Louisiana</u> <u>Schools</u> outlines guidelines for school library programs in Louisiana by focusing on the role of the school librarian as an active partner in the teaching and learning process. Resources to support librarians in the teaching and learning process are also available in the <u>Louisiana Literacy Library</u>. Additionally, librarians can access the <u>Louisiana Educator</u> <u>Rubric: Other Personnel Guidance</u> to answer questions about the new educator rubric. Please join the <u>LASL mailing</u> <u>list</u> to receive resources and information on additional professional learning opportunities and to celebrate with Louisiana school librarians. Information is also located on the <u>LASL Website</u>, on <u>Facebook</u>, and on <u>X</u>.

The <u>Louisiana Association of School Librarians</u> is hosting a professional learning opportunity for school librarians on February 1. A call for proposals and registration information will be available soon.

Please contact <u>elaguidebooks@la.gov</u> with questions.

Math

Numeracy Community of Practice

The LDOE is thrilled to announce the inaugural group of <u>educators</u> selected to serve on the Numeracy Community of Practice. These individuals will support the implementation efforts of <u>Act 260 (2023)</u> Numeracy training in their systems and will be expected to:

- complete the grade-specific numeracy course in Canopy aligned with the statewide pacing guide
- provide constructive feedback on the course content
- participate in virtual collaboration sessions
- participate in an invite-only session at the 2025 Teacher Leader Summit
- offer targeted planning and resources to support teachers, school leaders, and system leaders with effective numeracy instruction

The collaboration of the Numeracy Community of Practice is set to begin in January 2025.

Please contact stem@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies

Social Studies Office Hours

The LDOE social studies team is kicking off monthly office hours to support the implementation of <u>Bayou Bridges</u>, a <u>K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum</u>. Join us for our initial meeting from 3:15 p.m.-4 p.m. on January 8 to obtain information on the following topics:

- Using the Bayou Bridges instructional slide decks
- Using the LEAP assessment rubric with HQIM
- Using the Bayou Bridges alternative pacing guides
- Using the Bayou Bridges online resources

To participate, educators should use the Zoom link below to join during the scheduled time. See the <u>Social Studies</u> <u>Office Hours flyer</u> for more information on dates and topics.

Initial Webinar Date and Time: January 8 at 3:15 p.m. Webinar Link: <u>https://ldoe.zoom.us/i/92800306323?pwd=eObx7y79EwbnVD7OGfK2nHap7GN7qV.1</u> Webinar Phone Number: 1 346 248 7799 Meeting ID#: 928 0030 6323 Meeting Passcode: 644638

Please contact <u>classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov</u> with questions.

Bayou Bridges Instructional Slide Decks

The LDOE is developing instructional slide decks to support the implementation of <u>Bayou Bridges</u>, a <u>K-8 Social</u> <u>Studies Curriculum</u> in grades 3-8. Teachers will find these instructional decks helpful for increasing engagement, assisting in lesson pacing, and completing formative checks. Instructional decks include:

- core lesson teacher notes
- student supports
- images
- questions.

Bayou Bridges instructional slide decks for **Units 1** and **3**, as well as **Unit 4** for grades 3 and 8, are now available. **Unit 4** instructional slide decks for the remaining grades will be available on December 19.

Please contact <u>classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov</u> with questions.

Social Studies Assessment Rubric Webinar

The LDOE Divisions of Academic Content and Assessment have collaborated to produce a professional learning opportunity, *Understanding the LEAP Rubric Through the HQIM Lens*, to assist teachers in using the new Social Studies LEAP Assessment Rubric with their HQIM. Educators can utilize these materials in Teacher Collaboration by accessing the <u>presentation slides</u> and <u>note catcher</u>. Another option is to utilize the pre-recorded version, which will soon be available on the LDOE <u>YouTube</u> channel.

Please contact <u>classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov</u> with questions.

Diverse Learners

English Learner Institute

The LDOE is excited to announce the upcoming English Learner (EL) Institute for EL Directors, Coordinators, and Lead EL Teachers. The Institute will provide essential information and updates regarding English Learners. Registration is linked below.

Please make your calendars for the following days:

- February 4
- <u>May 14</u>

Please contact <u>alexandra.chenevert@la.gov</u> with questions.

Developing Strong Literacy Skills in 4th-8th Grade

The LDOE and Public Consulting Group (PCG) is pleased to offer Professional Development Modules focused on teacher-friendly content that provides the knowledge and skills necessary for intermediate and middle school classroom instruction by applying age-appropriate science of reading strategies. Registered participants will have access to five online modules, opportunities for professional learning, and easily accessible tools and resources.

Please contact <u>diverselearnerssupport@la.gov</u> with any questions.

Computer Science and STEM

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

The <u>Energize Initiative</u> 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 <u>eight or 40-hour</u> training through the online form.

Please contact energize@southeastern.edu with questions.

Ignite Initiative Training for K-5 Teachers

The <u>Ignite Initiative</u> 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. <u>Registration</u> is now open and training cohorts will begin in January.

Please contact <u>STEM@la.gov</u> with questions.

Quality STEM Implementation Guide: Now Available

The <u>K-12 Quality STEM Implementation Guide</u> is now available on the <u>STEM Initiative webpage</u>. This resource is intended to provide K-12 educators, as well as school systems, with:

- an overview of STEM education;
- K-8 STEM resources that have been reviewed by Louisiana STEM Teacher Leader Advisors (TLAs);
- an overview of 9-12 Louisiana STEM Renaissance Pathways; and
- available STEM awards, clubs, and competitions.

This resource can be used to support K-12 STEM implementation in STEM or content classrooms, after-school/summer programs, and school-wide STEM events. STEM resources will continue to be added to the Quality STEM Implementation Guide upon review by STEM TLAs.

Please contact <u>STEM@la.gov</u> with questions.

DIBELS MOY Reports for Principals

DIBELS MOY Benchmark Testing is under way and due December 31. The <u>Correlation Report</u> is a key report for leaders to utilize during this point of the year that tracks student performance over time on a specific measure, or it can be used to compare student performance on two different measures. The <u>Progress Monitoring Fidelity Reports</u> are also important during this time of the year to ensure teachers are progress monitoring students in a timely manner that allows for adjustment of interventions based on the data. Principals can learn more about these reports in the session: <u>Analyzing Screener Data Through Different Lenses</u>.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Support for High-Dosage Tutoring

The LDOE has many resources available to support <u>Accelerate: High-Dosage Tutoring</u>. The <u>Accelerate High Dosage</u> <u>Tutoring Guidance document</u> consists of guidelines, such as eligibility and program requirements for tutoring during the school day.

Please contact <u>tutoring@la.gov</u> with any questions.

Principal Newsletter Signup

Do you have a colleague who would benefit from receiving this newsletter? Forward this copy and encourage them to <u>subscribe</u> 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 <u>LDOE Principal's Newsletter Leader</u> <u>Spotlight Nomination Form</u>. This note of appreciation will be included in our next monthly newsletter.



Stacy Blanchard, MSA West, Iberville Parish

Mrs. Blanchard's goal is to always put our students first with every decision she makes, and goes above and beyond to serve our students and faculty. Her consistency and kindness positively impact all of us at MSA West!

Submitted by: Christie Edwards



Lindsey St. Cyr, Palmetto Elementary, St. Landry Parish

Mrs. St. Cyr is a true leader who truly cares for her school, staff, and students. She constantly seeks new ways to improve her own practices to help the school community!

Submitted by: Whitney Zerangue

Dates For School Leaders

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