



Principal's Newsletter



April 17, 2025

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LEADS CORNER

As you move into your third cycle of teacher observations, you are continuing to make advancements towards growing teachers to grow students. Keep in mind that observation data (SLTs, Observations, PGP/Coaching Plan) is placed into the Louisiana Evaluation System ([LES](#)), even if you are using a legacy system such as COMPASS. Collaborate with your LES system contact person to ensure that you are able to access the system. The [Guide for School Leaders: Planning for Implementation](#) is a continuous resource to support LEADS implementation.

Below are a few steps to continue a smooth transition to LEADS.

- School instructional leadership teams conduct trend analysis with observation data from the first and second cycles, identify strengths and growth opportunities, and determine next steps for the team's professional learning (i.e. extended LER indicator deep dives, connections to student work, etc.)
- For eligible educators, designated observers/evaluators of educators at each school conduct subsequent follow-up coaching and support cycle.

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

2025 LEADS Louisiana Evaluator Training

Additional dates have been added to the [2025 LEADS Evaluator Training](#), and registration is open. All evaluators and designated observers must attend face-to-face training and take a certification assessment prior to evaluating. To qualify for the assessment, evaluators must attend all full, consecutive days. Evaluators are encouraged to register for earlier dates to allow time to reschedule if conflicts arise. Registrants should cancel registration if they are unable to attend to allow those on the waitlist to participate. Evaluators/observers who have attended LER or LLCR Training previously do not need to attend training again; an email with instructions on recertifying in the Professional Learning Platform/Canopy will be sent to these individuals soon.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit 2025 Registration Closes April 18

Registration for Teacher Leader Summit 2025 closes Friday, April 18 or at sell out. The regular registration cost is \$299. The registration link is now live on the [Teacher Leader Summit webpage](#). Registration will be on a first-come-first serve basis.

Teacher Leader Summit 2025 is June 10-12 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

RESOURCES

Educator Opportunities

International Program Opportunities and Exchanges

The state of Louisiana's international government partnerships provide a number of international opportunities and exchange programs for interested students, teachers, schools, and communities. These opportunities include virtual and in-person teacher and class language, culture, and STEM exchanges and the recruitment of international associate teachers for world languages programs.

Schools and systems interested in learning about potential opportunities should complete the [International Program Opportunities and Exchanges Survey](#) by **May 1**.

Please contact language.acquisition@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Development Educator Review Committees

The Division of Assessment Content will convene assessment committees for the LEAP assessment in July and September to:

- Review newly developed items for alignment, content-related criteria, and appropriateness for all Louisiana students (Math and ELA)
- Provide recommendations on achievement level expectations (Social Studies)

Interested educators should access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees document](#) for information on exact dates, meeting details, application links, and deadlines to apply to participate on specific committees. The deadline to complete the applications is **April 18**.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Advisor Applications Now Open

The LDOE is excited to announce that applications are now being accepted for Diverse Learners (English Learners), Computer Science, and Instructional Materials Review [Teacher Leader Advisors](#) (TLAs). TLAs serve an essential role in supporting the implementation of the Louisiana Student Standards by reviewing instructional materials, creating resources, and providing professional learning for educators. Interested educators should submit their [applications](#) by **May 12**.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

ACADEMICS

ELA

ELA Guidebooks Materials Reminder

[American Reading Company](#) has provided a timeline for school systems that utilize their text purchasing portal for ELA Guidebooks text purchases. Quotes can be generated before the new fiscal year funding is available. Please see the timeline below to plan for your order, ensuring you receive your texts before the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

- To receive texts by May 30, orders must be placed by April 21.
- To receive texts by June 30, orders must be placed by May 23.
- To receive texts by July 31, orders must be placed by June 13.

If you require an expedited timeframe for your order, contact Micah Nicholson directly at micah.nicholson@americanreading.com.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Math

Zearn

Zearn School Licenses are open for all public Louisiana schools for the 2025-2026 school year. To ensure a smooth transition, system leaders should complete the [School Account Confirmation Form](#) by **May 1**.

As we move toward the close of this school year, remember to:

- monitor student engagement of three grade-level lessons per week;
- encourage teachers to check reports; and
- celebrate schools, classes, teachers and students meeting goals.

The [Zearn Summer Intensive Series](#) can be used as part of a summer school program, a tutoring program, or outside of school with a parent or caregiver. Schools and systems can access these materials as well as additional features and support through their school account. Visit the [Math Summer Learning Guidance](#) for more information.

Contact math@la.gov with any questions.

Act 260 Numeracy Training

The deadline for completion of the required numeracy training for all teachers of grades 4-8 mathematics is August 1. To ensure completion, school and system leaders should receive a certificate of completion from any teacher being hired for grades 4-8 mathematics, including teachers of diverse learners, for the 2025-26 academic year. Please visit the [Act 260 Guidance and Framing](#) for more information.

Contact math@la.gov with any questions.

Science

New Science Resources K-8 OpenSciEd

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](#)

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

inquiryHub (iHub) Biology Transition in Status

Following the completion of OpenSciEd Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, the second phase of development by the iHub team, inquiryHub Biology will no longer be designated as a high-quality pilot beginning in the 2025-2026 school year.

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

Two high-quality Biology options, **OpenSciEd High School Biology** and **BSCS Biology**, are both supported by professional learning.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

English Learner Institute

The LDOE is excited to announce the upcoming English Learner Institute for EL Directors and Coordinators. The Institute will provide essential information and updates regarding English Learners. [Registration](#) is now available for the institute that will be held on **May 14**.

Please contact alexandra.chenevert@la.gov with any questions.

Fast Track ESL Add-On

Tuition-free courses are available for teachers and leaders to earn an ESL Add-On credential. Please complete the 2024 - 2026 [Early Interest Survey](#) to receive information about Project Endorsement Plus opportunities.

Please contact alexandra.chenevert@la.gov with any questions.

SPED Fellow Academy Application

The Department is excited to announce that the SPED Fellow Academy application for the 2025-2026 school year is now open! This opportunity is designed for novice special education leaders who are eager to grow their leadership skills, enhance their expertise, and make a lasting impact in the field of special education. The [application](#) closes **April 30**.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with any questions.

DIF Grant: Middle to High School (M2HS) Pilot Initiative

The Division of Diverse Learners, in partnership with the Louisiana Center for Effective Transitions (LCET), is excited to announce an opportunity to participate in a cohort aimed at increasing the efficiency and efficacy of the transition between middle and high school, more effectively preparing students with disabilities to be successful.

We are seeking districts to participate in the Middle to High School (M2HS) initiative! This initiative will expand access by offering a training and support series for the Special Education Director and a cohort of teachers from selected districts that foster informed, effective transitions into high school.

The [application](#) to apply closes **April 22**.

Please contact Lauren.Wells@la.gov with any questions.

Special Education Parent Involvement Survey

The 2024-2025 special education parent involvement survey is open for school systems selected to participate. The purpose of the survey is to seek feedback on how well schools help to involve parents in the education of their children. The survey is open through **June 30**.

The list of participating school systems is available on the Department's [Special Education Parent Involvement Survey](#) page.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with any questions.

Dyslexia Professional Certification Program

The Louisiana Department of Education, in partnership with the Dyslexia Resource Center, is excited to offer the Dyslexia Professional Certification Program — a unique opportunity for educators to expand their expertise in supporting students with dyslexia. This sponsored program provides high-quality training and certification, equipping educators with evidence-based strategies to enhance literacy instruction and intervention. Participants will gain specialized knowledge and practical skills to effectively support students with dyslexia, improving educational outcomes across Louisiana. The [application](#) closes **April 30**.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Computer Science and STEM

Computer Science Teacher Leader Advisor Applications

Highly motivated Computer Science [Teacher Leader Advisors](#) (TLAs) are needed to drive the implementation of 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 until **May 12**. Educators are not required to be school-site teacher leaders to apply.

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

Refresher sessions will also 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.

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 empower 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.

Ed Tech

Teacher Leader Summit Session Preview: Digital Learning

The 2025 Teacher Leader Summit will offer sessions designed to provide educators with the knowledge and skills to harness the transformative power of technology to enhance instruction, engage students, and ultimately improve learning outcomes. The featured EdTech sessions will focus on:

- Integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education
- Leveraging digital tools to enhance teaching and learning
- Importance of thoughtful and intentional technology integration
- Strategies for using technology to support English Learners
- Responsible technology use and digital citizenship
- Using technology to assess and showcase student understanding in diverse ways

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

World Languages

International Program Opportunities and Exchanges

The LDOE provides a number of international opportunities and exchange programs for interested students, teachers, schools, and communities through the state of Louisiana's international government partnerships. These opportunities range from virtual to in-person teacher and class language and STEM exchanges to the

recruitment of international associate teachers for world languages programs.

Schools and systems interested in learning more about potential opportunities should review the [International Program Opportunities and Exchanges Flyer](#) and complete the interest survey by **May 1**.

Please contact language.acquisition@la.gov with questions.

Literacy

Good Cause Exemption Documentation for Third Grade Promotion

A [Good Cause Exemption Documentation](#) form can now be found in the [Literacy Library](#) to assist with preparation for third grade promotion. Please consult the [Third Grade Promotion Guidance](#) for more information.

Educator Talent And Workforce Development

Louisiana Aspiring Educators Summer Academy

[Student](#) and [Academy Staff](#) Applications are now open for the one-of-a-kind, five-day, hybrid summer camp, and professional learning experience. Open to high school students enrolled in the Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway or any other coursework aimed at attracting and developing future Louisiana educators. The Academy will be held July 14-18 at Louisiana State University at Alexandria.

Please contact mwillis@lsua.edu with any questions.

Principal 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.



Najee Herrington, Ferriday Upper Elementary, Concordia Parish

Under the leadership of Principal Herrington, the staff has embraced a growth mindset using teacher collaboration and instructional leadership team practices. As a result, the school is rising and has been a Top Growth school. Mrs. Herrington is a marigold.

Submitted by: Toyua Bachus



Steven Turner, North DeSoto High School, DeSoto Parish

Mr. Turner is a great leader that consistently does what is best for students while also meeting the needs of the faculty and staff. He brings a sense of calmness to our school. We appreciate Mr. Turner's presence.

Submitted by: Joseph Saverino

Important Dates For School Leaders

Important Dates	
DIF Grant: Middle to High School (M2HS) Pilot Initiative applications due	April 22
Dyslexia Professional Certification application due	April 30
SPED Fellow Academy application due	April 30
Zearn Interest Form due	May 1
International Program Opportunities and Exchanges Interest Survey due	May 1
Computer Science Teacher Leader Advisor applications due	May 12
Teacher Leader Advisor applications due	May 12
English Learner Institute	May 14