



Principal's Newsletter



January 27, 2025

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LEADS Corner

The [Guide for School Leaders: Planning for Implementation](#) is an available resource to support LEADS implementation. Below are a few steps to continue your 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.

LEADS Implementation Support

Principals are encouraged to participate in LEADS implementation support opportunities. The January and February [LEADS Implementation On-Site Support Sessions](#) focus on the observation and post-conference process. Participants will engage in the observation process in real-time in Louisiana classrooms. Following the observation, participants will plan a post-observation conference. Registration is now open in [EventBrite](#).

[LEADS Implementation Monthly Webinars](#) provide an additional opportunity to deepen understanding of the evaluation components and processes.

The MOY Conference for Counselors/Leaders

- **Webinar Date and time:** February 13 at 12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96044571238?pwd=4tGXwUoGz36D3Uh0ySZvSmDAOq0gnQ.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 960 4457 1238

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Announcements

Teacher Leader Summit

Educators, it's time! The 13th annual [Teacher Leader Summit](#) will be held June 10-12 in New Orleans at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. This year's Teacher Leader Summit will focus on "A New Story for Louisiana Education." The LDOE is looking for talented teacher leaders to be the next [Teacher Leader Summit presenters](#). The call for presentations is now open. Interested teacher leaders who want to share their knowledge should submit a proposal to the LDOE using the [Teacher Leader Summit 2025 Proposal Application](#) by January 31. Teacher Leader Summit early bird registration will open on February 10 and close on March 14. Regular registration will open on March 15 and close on April 18.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

Resources

Academics

School Support Institutes /System Leader Regional Collaboration

Session 3 of [School Support Institutes](#) (SSI) is coming up soon! Please note your cohort's session date and location:

- **Jan 28: Monroe** - ULM Bayou Pointe, 1 Warhawk Way
- **Jan 29: Shreveport** - Shreveport Convention Center, 400 Caddo Street
- **Jan 30: Lafayette** - ULL Student Union, 620 McKinley Street
- **Feb 4: New Orleans (Kenner)** - Pontchartrain Convention Center, 4545 Williams Blvd, Kenner
- **Feb 5: Baton Rouge** - Crowne Plaza Baton Rouge, 4728 Constitution Avenue

Integrated Pathway participants should bring a copy of their TC cycle LRP (can be hard copy or digital copy you can access on a device) to the session. Please access the [Session 2 deck](#) for additional information on this deliverable.

Literacy Pathway participants should student work to be analyzed for a literacy student work analysis. Participants should bring student work from one teacher's class and for one lesson taught.

All logistics information, including parking directions and room assignments, is on the [SSI logistics page](#).

Please contact SSIsupport@la.gov with questions or changes in registration.

Educator Opportunities

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.

Please contact info@paemist.org or STEM@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent And Workforce Development

2023-2024 Evaluation Close-Out in CIS

All 2023-2024 evaluation data for teachers, counselors, and other instructional staff should be [finalized](#) in [CIS](#) at this time. The deadline to enter or edit leader evaluations is January 31. Prior to the deadline, principals should review rosters to ensure all data is accurate. Data cannot be entered or edited in CIS following this date.

As a reminder, all 2024-2025 evaluation data should be entered directly into LES for all schools, regardless of the chosen evaluation type; there will be no transfer of scores or spreadsheet uploads in the new system.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Evaluation System (LES)

[LES](#) 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. Earlier this month, LES webinars were held for school leaders. A copy of the [slide deck](#) and the [recording](#) is now available as a resource.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

ELA

Resources for School Librarians

The LDOE has resources available to support school librarians. The [Guidelines for Library Programs in Louisiana Schools](#) outline recommendations 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 [Louisiana Literacy Library](#). Additionally, librarians can access the [Louisiana Educator Rubric: Other Personnel Guidance](#) to answer questions about the new educator rubric. Please join the [LASL mailing list](#) to receive resources and information on additional professional learning opportunities and to celebrate with Louisiana school librarians.

The [Louisiana Association of School Librarians](#) 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 elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Math

Zearn Leader Collaboration

The [Zearn/Louisiana Leader Collaboration](#) is scheduled monthly throughout the school year for leaders to collaborate and discuss Zearn implementation, common challenges, and possible solutions. The next meeting is scheduled for [March 11 at 9 a.m.](#)

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Financial Literacy Activities

We are pleased to announce the launch of six hands-on [financial literacy activities](#) specifically designed to support the goals of Act 267 in fostering financial education. These interactive, engaging activities cater to various learning styles, making them ideal for all high school students. These activities are now available on the [Louisiana Math](#) page in the Resources section.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Diverse Learners

ESL Add-On Credential

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

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

Computer Science and STEM

STEM Renaissance Pathway Scheduling Tool

The STEM team has created a [STEM Renaissance Pathway Counselor Scheduling Tool](#) to assist with scheduling students on the STEM Renaissance Pathway. The document is downloadable and can be used to track a student's progress in coursework from grades 9 to 12. The document is on the [STEM web page](#), along with an informative [webinar](#) on the changes to the STEM Renaissance Pathways.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Educator Recognition

Principal Spotlight

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.

Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA) Awards

[The Louisiana Science Teachers Association \(LSTA\)](#) recognized the following outstanding Louisiana science educators for 2024 with a ceremony at the joint LSTA/NSTA Conference on November 7. Awardees included LSTA Outstanding Science Teachers Beth Olivier (Mulberry Elementary), Jodi Sanchez (The Willow School), and Amy Douglas Kendrick (Jena High School), as well as the LSTA Jean May-Brett Distinguished Informal Science Educator Sophia Crook (LIGO Livingston Educator). Congratulations to all of the awardees!

Please contact STEM@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 our next monthly newsletter.

Principal Appreciation

Do 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.

Important Dates For School Leaders

Important Dates	
School Support Institutes Session 3	January 28 - February 5
Teacher Leader Summit 2025 Proposal Application due	January 31
English Learner (EL) Institute	February 4
Teacher Leader Summit early bird registration begins	February 10
Zearn/Louisiana Leader Collaboration	March 11