



Principal's Newsletter

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October 16, 2025

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Principal Strategy Spotlight

Kyle Fontenette, 2026 Principal of the Year Finalist



At Mayfair Laboratory School, every season brings new opportunities to grow, connect, and celebrate the amazing work happening in our classrooms. As we navigate the middle stretch of the school year, our focus remains clear: maintaining high morale and keeping our attention centered on excellent teaching and learning. As we navigate the long stretch between holidays, when energy can start to dip for both teachers and students, we have learned that the best way to sustain momentum is to stay grounded in what matters most: people, purpose, and connection.

Our “Recipe for Success” theme this school year could not be more fitting. The key ingredient in everything we do is our teachers. They are the heart of our school. We make it a point to celebrate and support our faculty throughout the year. From monthly 'Thankful Thursdays' to 'Coffee Truck Fridays,' potluck faculty lunches, faculty shout-out emails, and small acts of appreciation, we strive to remind our staff how valued they are. Those gestures may seem small, but they go a long way in keeping spirits up and reinforcing that sense of team that defines our school environment. When teachers feel supported, students feel it too, and that positive energy carries straight into the classroom.

This time of year is also when we shift our focus outward to strengthen connections with families and the community. Family engagement events such as our Fall Parent Teacher Association Bingo Night, Veterans Luncheon, Trunk or Treat, Family Feast Picnic, and Career Showcase are a great way to bring everyone together around a shared vision. Planning these events is a genuine team effort between our faculty and the PTA. These community events allow us to create a welcoming and family-friendly atmosphere, which

contributes to Mayfair Lab's continued success. We also love including community partners who can share their expertise or provide real-world ties to classroom learning.

What makes these events so powerful is not just the turnout; it is the sense of partnership they build. Parents leave feeling more connected to their child's school and more confident in supporting their child's learning at home. Teachers are reminded that their work matters beyond the classroom walls. Students see that everyone in their world is invested in their success. Community truly is the essence of education!

Even during the busiest or longest stretches of the year, Mayfair Lab tries to stay rooted in gratitude, collaboration, and shared celebration, which keeps our community thriving. That is our "recipe for success." We support our faculty, connect with our families, and never lose sight of the ultimate goal: to provide students with a positive and nurturing school community.

Announcements

Teaching & Learning Menu of Services

The LDOE Office of Teaching and Learning has officially launched its comprehensive Menu of Services, offering tailored, one-on-one support to meet the specific needs of schools or systems across the state. From strengthening lesson preparation to building collaborative teacher teams, these offerings are designed to enhance instruction and improve student outcomes.

Please note: Only one designated point of contact (POC) per school system is authorized to submit support requests. If you're unsure who your system's POC is, please check with your central office before placing an order.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Resources

Educator Opportunities

2025 LATM & LSTA Joint Conference

The [Louisiana Association for Teachers of Mathematics](#) (LATM) and the [Louisiana Science Teachers Association](#) (LSTA) will host their 2025 conference on November 6-7 at the Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge. This conference features inspiring educational sessions from leaders in math and science education, including the LDOE, and offers opportunities to network with colleagues from around the state. Pre-registration closes on October 22nd. Visit the [conference website](#) for more information and to register.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Development Educator Review Committees

The Office of Assessments, Accountability and Analytics will convene assessment committees for the LEAP and LEAP Connect assessments in January and February to:

- review newly developed LEAP Connect items for alignment and content-related criteria, and
- review English language arts 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.

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 November 13.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Educator Talent and Workforce Development

Strategic Scheduling Professional Development Series

The Louisiana Department of Education is excited to announce the Strategic Scheduling Series, a set of professional learning opportunities designed to help school and system leaders strengthen school schedules.

Sessions are offered throughout the year and will be held both virtually and in person. Sessions will be tailored to specific grade bands.

- Strategic Schedules Mini-Series for School System Leaders
- Schedule Building Bootcamp Experience for School-Based Teams
- Technical Scheduling for School Schedulers

Participants will gain practical tools, strategies, and support to design schedules that supports teachers and maximizes instructional time, ultimately improving student outcomes. [Registration is open](#) now for all three program types.

Please email LouisianaLeaders@la.gov with questions.

Pre-Educator Pathway Site Visit

System leaders, teacher leaders, and postsecondary teacher preparation partners are invited to attend a day of learning and community building through site visits. During site visits, participants will have the opportunity to observe Grow Your Own work being done in another school system and strategize to improve Grow Your Own efforts in their own system. Please complete the [registration form](#) to attend the visit in Ascension Parish on October 20.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Quarter 2 Pre-Educator Pathway System Lead Support Webinar

Offered quarterly, the Pre-Educator Pathway System Lead Support Webinars 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. All school systems are encouraged to attend regardless of current pathway status.

- Webinar date/time: November 20 at 10:30 a.m.
- Webinar link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96480214276?pwd=ZzfpuA8GPHiFs6dDSKb13VavovnuXs.1>
- Meeting ID: 96480214276
- Phone: 470-250-9358

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

NTE: Professional Learning Modules: Registration OPEN for Modules 2 through Module 5

The LDOE, in partnership with A+PEL, has developed monthly [professional learning modules](#) on topics critical to new teacher success. These modules comprise online asynchronous content, followed by an in-person learning lab where participants practice and apply the concepts.

Teachers are expected to complete the entire series of Professional Learning Modules. These five modules are designed to build learning throughout the year. We will continue to invite teachers to register for Modules 2 through Module 5. Registration will close upon completion of Module 2.

- [Module 2: Standards and Curriculum](#)
- [Module 3: Data Literacy](#)
- [Module 4: Literacy for 21st-Century Learners](#)
- [Module 5: Parent and Community Engagement](#)

This year, complimentary seating will be offered for the first 200 registrants.

Half of the seats at the northern location (Monroe) and half at the southern area (Baton Rouge) will be reserved as complimentary seating. Once those seats are exhausted, teachers may still attend, but the cost to complete the series of modules will be \$1,272.00 per teacher.

There are still complementary seats available.

Teachers must receive approval to attend from their school leader. [Registration](#) is now open. Once teachers complete the registration, participants will receive details on selected training locations and an invitation to access the online asynchronous modules.

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

LES Evaluations

School leaders should continue finalizing 2024–2025 educator evaluations in LES by selecting 2024 to complete any remaining data. Evaluations may be finalized, including VAM teachers. The data entry deadline will be announced after VAM results are released this fall. It is encouraged to collaborate with your LES system contact person for any incomplete evaluations. Refer to [Bulletin 130](#) for the criteria for marking an evaluation incomplete.

Round 1 observations should now be underway for 2025-2026 evaluations. SLT meetings and goal setting should have occurred, with evaluators reviewing and accepting SLTs in LES. The [LES Timeline](#) and [LES Technical Guide](#) serve as key resources to support ongoing tasks and data entry in LES.

Please contact LEADS@la.gov with questions.

Safe and Healthy Schools

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) School Safety Training

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) School Safety will host a [virtual training](#) on enhancing behavioral threat assessment and management (BTAM) practices in kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12) schools. The training will take place on Thursday, October 16, from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm. CDT. This session will explore how K-12 leaders can build and strengthen BTAM processes that promote early intervention and prevent school violence, especially when embedded within a comprehensive multi-tiered system of supports. A panel of experts will share strategies for forming an effective BTAM team, defining roles, and fostering collaboration among school staff, mental health professionals, and law enforcement partners.

- When: October 16, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EDT
- Where: Microsoft Teams Live (access link to be provided to registrants one day in advance of the event)
- Registration: K12ThreatAssessment.eventbrite.com

Training will be relevant to school and district administrators, K-12 school security staff, emergency management professionals, school resource officers, and school-based law enforcement personnel, state and local law enforcement, parents and guardians, and other members of the school safety community.

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

Academic Content

Literacy

High-Dosage Tutoring Quality Assessment Now Available

School and system leaders are encouraged to utilize the [High-Dosage Tutoring Quality Assessment](#) to support the effectiveness and instructional quality of High-Dosage Tutoring sessions. This tool helps monitor session quality, guide targeted feedback, and ensure tutoring sessions are aligned with core classroom instruction.

Please contact tutoring@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks Unit Updates

The LDOE has updated the [ELA Guidebooks](#) webpage to include the [ELA Guidebooks 6-8 \(2024\) Standards Overview Document](#). This document provides information on student standards addressed in each grade-level unit, ensuring alignment and students' opportunities to meet the requirements of the grade-level standards.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, the LDOE will implement revisions in select units of the [ELA Guidebooks curriculum](#). Below is an overview of unit updates.

- Unit text revisions:
 - Grade 8 The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: updated to use the Young Reader's version of the text
- Unit Readers:
 - Future communications will include more information about changes to Unit Readers.
- Unit no longer available:
 - Grade 11 - Friday Night Lights
- Units moving grade levels:
 - Diary: Moving from grade 8 to grade 9
 - A Lesson Before Dying: Moving from grade 9 to grade 10
 - The Joy Luck Club: Moving from grade 9 to grade 10
- Additional unit development:
 - Development of additional units for grades 8, 9, and 11 is underway. Future communications will include further details.

Local school systems should determine the grade-level implementation of each unit.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Librarian Support and Resources

The LDOE updated the [Louisiana Educator Advancement and Development \(LEADS\)](#) web page to include the [Louisiana Library Program Rubric](#) and other helpful resources. To locate these resources on the LEADS web page, scroll to the Louisiana Educator Evaluation section and select Observation and Feedback.

The Louisiana Association of School Librarians (LASL) has launched a [Membership Survey](#) to better serve the librarians in Louisiana and encourages all interested members to complete it promptly.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Numeracy

New Lesson Preparation and Unit Study Tools are now available.

The new [Math Unit Study Tool](#) and [Lesson Preparation Protocol](#) support effective planning with HQIM. These tools guide teachers as they prepare by focusing on the most critical elements of each unit and lesson.

Using these tools, teachers can:

- Clarify learning goals related to the standards.
- Anticipate student misconceptions.

- Study how lessons connect within and across units.
- Highlight key tasks, questions, and strategies expected of all learners.

When used in teacher collaboration, the tool builds shared understanding among teachers, leading to more consistent and coherent instruction. Regular lesson preparation will improve pacing, engagement, and outcomes.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies

Social Studies Office Hours

The LDOE social studies team will hold its second office hours session of the 2025-2026 school year on **November 5 at 3:15 p.m.** This session will feature strategies for enhancing student engagement during guided reading. For access to past office hours slides and information on upcoming sessions, please refer to the [Social Studies Office Hours flyer](#) on the [K-12 Social Studies Planning webpage](#).

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 5 at 3:15 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97436075546>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 974 3607 5546
- **Meeting Passcode:** 280838

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

Bayou Bridges and Foundations of Freedom Pacing Guides

The LDOE has released detailed alternate pacing guides for [Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Social Studies Curriculum](#) and [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#). Developed by social studies educators, these guides offer standards-aligned pacing options that are coherent, flexible, and organized to support student needs. Units 1 and 2 are available now, and the remaining units will be released on a rolling basis. Teachers should utilize these pacing guides to adjust instruction and better meet the needs of their students.

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies Course Frameworks

To support high school social studies instruction, the LDOE has released course frameworks for World History and World Geography. Units 1-3 are now available, with the remaining units will be released on a rolling basis. Teachers are encouraged to use these frameworks to ensure alignment with state standards, guide lesson planning, and provide a coherent learning experience for students.

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

Science

Updated Science Implementation Guides

The LDOE is updating the Louisiana guides for implementing high-quality science instructional materials. The updates add new science-released test items correlated to the Louisiana Student Standards for Science (LSSS) for each unit of the respective [high-quality materials](#). These items appear in the “LDOE Formative Assessment Resources” section of each guide. Updated guides for Grades 3 and 4 are now available on the [K12 Science Planning Page](#), with guides for the other grade levels coming soon.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Now Available: New Louisiana Implementation Guides

With the identification of additional [high-quality science instructional materials](#) for high school biology, the LDOE science team has published the following new implementation guides:

- [Louisiana Guide to Implementing BSCS Biology: Understanding for Life](#);
- [Louisiana Guide to Implementing Activate Learning OpenSciEd Biology](#); and
- [Louisiana Guide to Implementing Carolina OpenSciEd Biology](#).

These resources include information about standards, LDOE formative assessment resources for each unit, and more.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Now Available: Customizing HQIM Resources

Resources are now available for teachers who wish to customize their science HQIM through the purposeful integration of LDOE formative assessment resources. The [Integrating LDOE Formative Assessment Items into Science HQIM](#) support document is available on the [K-12 Science Planning website](#) under the “Science Instructional Planning and Customization Resources” dropdown. This resource includes framing context, process guidance, and an example, and is best used during collaborative planning.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Physical Education

2025-2026 Health and PE in Schools Survey

Principals should complete the [2025-2026 Health and PE in Schools Survey](#) by October 31. State law requires the LDOE to monitor and evaluate health, recess, physical activity, and employee training in schools, and to provide an annual report to the Louisiana Legislature. Participation is critical to ensure the Senate and House Committees on Health and Welfare receive accurate, high-quality data.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@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. Select a date and use the link provided to register.

- [January 26, 2026](#)
- [March 16, 2026](#)
- [May 13, 2026](#)

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

New Resources for English Learners

The Department is pleased to share five new resources to strengthen programming and instruction for English Learners. These resources provide both system-level guidance and practical tools for classroom instruction.

- [Improving Outcomes for English Learners: Louisiana's Framework](#)
- [Strategies for English Learners: A Guide for Novice Teachers](#)
- [Manual for Special Education Referral of English Learners](#)
- [Secondary English Learner Toolkit](#)
- [Supporting English Learners Through the Writing Process](#)

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

Computer Science and STEM

Mark your calendars for Computer Science Education Week!

Celebrate Computer Science Education Week (CS Ed Week), December 8-14, by planning classroom, school, or system-wide events focused on computer science. Building on student curiosity and excitement, CS Ed Week events or activities may serve as a vital step towards implementing the [Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science](#). Give your students the chance to learn computer science concepts through lessons focusing on coding, computational thinking, and cybersecurity, and start planning your CS Ed Week [activities](#) today!

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Educational Technology

Cybersecurity Awareness Month

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and it's a great time to equip students with the knowledge to become responsible and safe digital users. In today's connected world, understanding how to navigate the digital landscape with confidence and security is an essential skill.

The [LDOE's Digital Learning website](#) has several resources to support teachers in educating students about cybersecurity. Teachers are encouraged to use these guides to start conversations and lead activities in their classroom this month and throughout the year.

The LDOE's cybersecurity and digital resources include:

- [Digital Responsibility and AI Guide](#)
- [Elementary Student Guide](#)
- [Secondary Student Guide](#)
- [Teacher Guide](#)
- [Parent Guide](#)

These resources provide valuable strategies and activities to help establish a foundation of safe and responsible online practices for all learners.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Educator Recognition

Seeking Nominations for Excellent Educators

The LDOE is currently seeking nominations for the following awards initiatives:

- Teacher and Principal of the Year
- Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year
- New Teacher of the Year.
 - Note- Candidates for the New Teacher of the Year program must have less than one year of teaching experience.

The deadline to submit nominations via the [nominations portal](#) is **September 30**. 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 contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions about Teacher/Principal of the Year, laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions about New Teacher of the Year, or shallan.jones@la.gov with questions about Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year.

School Support, Health Provider, and Physical Activity Award Programs- Application Process is Open

The application process for the following awards initiatives is now open:

- [Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year](#)
- [School Health Service Provider of the Year](#)
- [School Physical Activity Award](#)

By December 9, the state-level applications must be submitted via online application portals. All application materials, timelines, and links to the online application portals are available on the [Awards](#)

page. All school systems are encouraged to select candidates as their local-level honorees and submit these selections to the state process.

To assist stakeholders with the application process, [Informational webinars](#) will be conducted throughout the application process. On these calls, information will be shared about the timeline/process, as well as steps for using the online portals. Additionally, there will be time for questions to be answered.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions about Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year, and healthyschools@la.gov for questions about School Health Service Provider of the Year and School Physical Activity Awards.

Teacher/Principal, New Teacher, and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year Application Process
Open

The application process for the following awards programs is now open:

- Teacher and Principal of the Year
- New Teacher of the Year
- Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year

Application Deadlines:

- Teacher/Principal of the Year and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year applications due January 14.
- New Teacher of the Year applications due January 21.

The application materials and timelines are posted in the resource section for each program on the [Staff and Educator Awards](#) page. State-level applications are to be submitted via an online application portal, which will open later this fall.

To assist stakeholders with the application process, [informational webinars](#) will be conducted throughout the process. On these calls, information will be shared about the timeline/process, as well as steps for using the online portals. Additionally, there will be time for questions to be answered.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions about the Teacher/Principal of the Year, laurie.carlton@la.gov with questions about the New Teacher of the Year, or shallan.jones@la.gov with questions about the Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year.

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.

Principals for Principals Newsletter

The LDOE has released a new monthly newsletter designed to meet the practical needs of principals. Please visit the [LDOE's Principal Development Opportunities](#) landing page to read previous and current entries.