



# Principal's Newsletter



March 20, 2025

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## LEADS CORNER

As you continue your second/third cycle of teacher observations, you are continuing to make advancements towards growing teachers to grow students. 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

Keep in mind that observation data is placed into the Louisiana Evaluation System ([LES](#)). 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.

### **LEADS Implementation Planning Resources**

The 2025-2026 school year begins the full implementation of the Louisiana Educator Advancement and Development System (LEADS). The Educator Talent and Workforce Development Team has created guidance to support leaders with planning for LEADS evaluation implementation.

The [Evaluation Implementation Guidance for School Leaders](#) provides school leaders with a sequenced list of suggested activities to support smooth implementation. The [LA Educator Evaluation Process: Sequence and Timeline](#), as well as the [LA Leader and Counselor Evaluation Process: Sequence and Timeline](#), provide an overview and timeline of all evaluation processes. The [Evaluation FAQ](#), located in the [LEADS Library](#), provides additional information.

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **2025 LEADS Louisiana Evaluator Training**

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. Registration is now available on [Eventbrite](#). (Those who have previously attended LER or LLCR training do not need to attend again; however, the certification assessment is an annual requirement. More information on how to recertify will be published soon.)

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

### **Teacher Leader Summit 2025 Regular Registration Now Open**

The regular registration period for Teacher Leader Summit 2025 is open now through 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 served basis.

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

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

## RESOURCES

### **Educator Talent And Workforce Development Aspiring Principal Fellowship 2025-2026 Application Available**

The Louisiana Department of Education is excited to offer the fifth cohort of the Aspiring Principal Fellowship for the 2025-2026 school year. This transformative fellowship will equip up to 50 individuals with the essential knowledge and skills to step into the principal role. Through this selective statewide program, aspiring school leaders will begin a unique year-long journey to elevate their leadership potential. Fellowship participants will collaborate throughout the year, exploring best practices with regional and national experts. They will engage in immersive full-day school visits, working hand-in-hand with exemplary practicing principals while participating in professional learning aligned with current state initiatives.

Applicants must hold or be eligible for a current EDL1 certification in Louisiana. School systems must cover the \$1,000 tuition for presenters and materials, as well as travel costs. Interested candidates should complete this [Aspiring Principal Fellowship Application](#) no later than April 7. Fellowship applicants will be notified of acceptance by May 9.

Additional information about the Aspiring Principal Fellowship can be found in the [APF overview document](#).

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

## ACADEMICS

### 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. Information is also located on the [LASL Website](#), on [Facebook](#), and on [X](#).

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

## Math

### **Zearn for the 2025-2026 School Year**

Zearn School Licenses are available for the 2025-2026 school year. System leaders should complete the [School Account Confirmation Form](#) to express their interest in continuing Zearn engagement by May 1. Only one form is required per system.

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

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

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

### **Zearn Summer Intensive Series**

As part of the Zearn partnership, the LDOE will continue to provide every public K-8 school with a [school account](#) through June 2026. The [Zearn Summer Intensive Series](#) is a high-quality resource that provides a great tool to support continued summer learning for students in formal programs and those learning at home. For ideas on implementing Zearn in summer programs or supporting parents this summer, reference the LDOE [Math Summer Learning Guidance](#).

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

### **Act 260 Numeracy Training**

August 1 is the deadline for all grades 4-8 mathematics teachers to complete the required [Act 260 Numeracy Training](#). To ensure appropriate pacing, please support teachers in completing the following modules in April.

- Module 18: Strategies for Adding and Subtracting Rational Numbers Part 1
- Module 19: Strategies for Adding and Subtracting Rational Numbers Part 2

Congratulations to the 952 educators who have completed the course and earned their certificate. As a reminder, teachers must provide appropriate documentation to hiring schools and systems beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year.

Plan on attending our sessions at this year's Teacher Leader Summit as we make connections to the numeracy training as aligned to High Quality Instructional Materials and the Louisiana Educator Rubric.

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

## Social Studies

### **Bayou Bridges Office Hours**

The LDOE social studies team will hold their fourth office hours session on April 2 from 3:15 p.m.–4 p.m. This session will cover online resources for the [Bayou Bridges Curriculum](#) and the launch of [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#).

Please see the [social studies office hours flyer](#) on the [Bayou Bridges page](#) to access past office hours slides and information on the remaining office hours sessions.

- **Date and Time:** April 2 at 3:15 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92800306323?pwd=eObx7y79EwbnVD7OGfK2nHap7GN7qV.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 928 0030 6323
- **Meeting Passcode:** 644638

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

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

Bayou Bridges Unit 6 instructional slide decks for all grade levels and Unit 7 for grades 3 and 8 are now available on the [Bayou Bridges page](#). Teachers should use these decks to enhance student understanding, utilize scaffolds, and integrate formative assessments. Instructional slide decks can be accessed on the [Bayou Bridges page](#) under each grade level section.

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

## Science

### **K-12 Science Summer Professional Learning**

The LDOE science team will offer in-person professional learning sessions in July for K-12 science teachers and leaders. These sessions will focus on effective science teaching and learning strategies using examples from high-quality science instructional materials and cover key topics, including understanding the LDOE science instructional model, aligning with the Louisiana Educator Rubric, and planning strategies for effective science instruction. More information about the [two-day teacher sessions](#) and [one-day leader session](#) is available on the linked flyers.

There is no registration fee, but seating is limited. To request a seat, please fill out the [teacher registration form](#) or [leader registration form](#) by April 3.

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

## Computer Science and STEM

### **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, with cohorts available through June.

Refresher sessions will also be offered for teachers who participated in Energize previously and want additional exam review before attempting the Praxis (5652) exam. Use the [online form](#) to register for either training session.

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto: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. Multiple cohorts are available in virtual, in-person, and hybrid formats. [Registration](#) is now open, and training cohorts will be held from February through June.

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

## **Office Hours for K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science Implementation**

The LDOE hosts monthly office hours to support the implementation of computer science standards. Content supervisors and teacher leaders are invited to attend these [office hours](#) on the third Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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

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

### **Adolescent Literacy Professional Learning Opportunity**

The literacy team is offering two full-day virtual trainings through Keys to Literacy on adolescent literacy.

[Advanced Word Study](#) is an all-day training that will be offered once in April and several days in early June. The training will focus on teaching advanced word study so that students can spell and read multisyllabic words in any subject.

[Keys to Adolescent Literacy](#) is a one-day training that will be offered on several dates in early June. This one-day training will offer an overview of adolescent literacy instruction for students in grades 5-12 in all subject areas, and will build background knowledge on how students learn to read, best practices for teaching content reading and writing skills, and common reasons why some older students struggle.

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

## Diverse Learners

### English Learner Institute

Registration is now open for the upcoming [English Learner Institute for EL Directors and Coordinators](#) on May 14 in Baton Rouge. The Institute will provide essential information and updates regarding English Learners.

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

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

Do you have a colleague who would benefit from receiving this newsletter? Forward this copy and encourage them to [subscribe to our next monthly Principal's 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.



### **Frances Kay, Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School**

Mother Frances "Boo" Kay has been the driving force in developing Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School. Although she will retire soon, her optimism, energy, and constant development of our school have prepared us for the upcoming years.

*Submitted by: Candace Marque*



### **Sheila Holden-Lester, Claiborne Magnet Elementary, Caddo Parish**

Because Dr. Lester's door is always open, everyone feels comfortable going to her for advice, encouragement, and guidance. She constantly seeks ways to support her faculty, staff, parents, and students.

*Submitted by: Monica Howell*



### **Stephanie Arinder, North DeSoto Lower Elementary, DeSoto Parish**

Mrs. Arinder has been an invaluable asset to our team and brings exceptional leadership. Her dedication shines through in unwavering support for all students and staff.

*Submitted by: Russell Tabor*

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

Important Dates	
<a href="#">Social Studies Office Hours</a>	April 2 at 3:15 p.m.
<a href="#">K-12 Science Summer Professional Learning Leader Registration Due</a>	April 3
<a href="#">Aspiring Principal Fellowship Application Due</a>	April 7
<a href="#">Zearn Interest Form Due</a>	May 1
<a href="#">International Program Opportunities and Exchanges Interest Survey Due</a>	May 1