



Teacher Leader Newsletter



August 2025



Welcome back, teacher leaders!

I'm truly excited to start this new school year with you. As someone who's walked in your shoes — as a teacher and teacher leader — I know the energy, preparation, and heart that go into getting ready for the first day of school. There's nothing quite like the excitement of a fresh start — one full of new opportunities and renewed possibilities.

In June, over 7,000 educators came together at the [2025 Teacher Leader Summit](#). It was an inspiring few days where we continued to draft a new chapter in Louisiana's education story. This year's Summit featured carefully crafted sessions that emphasized the use of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM), giving educators the chance to celebrate our progress and build

momentum with practical tools and resources.

We're also excited to keep advancing our [Let Teachers Teach](#) initiative. This effort is about getting back to the heart of teaching — focusing on academics, effective planning, and meaningful instruction. It offers practical recommendations across professional learning, curriculum, and more, all designed to give teachers the time and space to do what they do best: teach.

As you begin the year, I encourage you to identify clear, high-impact priorities — ones that support your system's broader goals without simply repeating them. Communicate expectations early and clearly.

Thank you for your continued commitment to your students, your profession, and to the future of education in Louisiana. Your work inspires me every day, and I wish you an incredible start to the school year!

Warmly,

Dr. Jenna Chiasson

Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

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NEW: MENU OF SERVICES

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 prep to building collaborative teacher teams, these offerings are designed to improve instruction and 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.

NUMERACY RESOURCES

Financial Literacy Activities

The LDOE has added additional financial literacy activities and a year-long project to the High School Guidance section on the [Louisiana Math](#) page. These resources are designed to support the implementation of Act 267 further and aim to enhance students' understanding of financial literacy concepts, helping prepare students for real-world financial decision-making.

Educators are encouraged to explore these new additions and incorporate them into their financial literacy instruction to enrich the learning experience for all high school students.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Achievement in Numeracy Act (LANE)

[Act 260](#) of 2023 mandates that all mathematics teachers in grades 4–8 complete a LDOE-approved professional learning course focused on numeracy instruction by **August 2025**. System and school leaders must request a completed certificate from any employee being hired to teach mathematics in grades 4–8, following the completion date specified in the legislation.

Additionally, [Act 353 of 2025 \(LANE\)](#) requires all K–3 mathematics teachers to complete an approved foundational numeracy course by **August 2027**. Together, these laws ensure that all K–8 mathematics teachers participate in high-quality, LDOE-identified professional learning aligned with effective numeracy practices. While a course for high school mathematics teachers is available, it is currently **optional**. The [Guidance and Framing](#) document is available on the [Louisiana Math webpage](#).

Educators transitioning from teaching grades 4–8 to grades K–3 are expected to complete the K–3 course to deepen their understanding of the vertical alignment of mathematics standards and instructional models. For those who have previously completed the grades 4–8 course, progress may be transferred to the K–3 course for the 13 content modules and 3 disposition modules. This transfer will result in over 50% completion of the K–3 course.

To facilitate this process, please submit the names and email addresses of any participants requesting progress duplication.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

LITERACY

Catalog of Supports for Literacy Teachers and Leaders

The Literacy Library now offers a catalog of support for literacy [leaders](#) and [teachers](#) in the [Literacy Professional Growth Resources](#) on the Literacy Library. The Catalog of Supports for Literacy Leaders is a culmination of all of the literacy resources available for leaders. The Catalog of Supports for Literacy Teachers is organized by grade bands and recommends the resources and training most appropriate for that band. Both resources highlight our most recent courses on the Louisiana Professional Learning Platform: Unit Unpacking and Lesson Preparation (grades 4-12) and Using DIBELS to Drive Literacy Growth (grades K-3).

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

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 questions.

ELA RESOURCES

ELA Guidebooks Unit Updates

Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, the LDOE will implement revisions in select units of the ELA Guidebooks curriculum. The updates will reassign certain units to a different grade level, revise some unit texts, and make other unit modifications. The LDOE will provide guidance and additional details for these updates in future communications.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Social Studies Office Hours

To support the implementation of [Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum](#) and [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#), the LDOE social studies team will hold office hours the first Wednesday of each month from 3:15 to 4 p.m. The information for the first call is below:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 3 at 3:15 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:**
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97436075546?pwd=bLSsw5AUjKUQL1a6wWUCfhfWoY5ZwR.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 974 3607 5546
- **Meeting Passcode:** 280838

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

Bayou Bridges Student Workbooks

Bayou Bridges student workbooks are available for the 2025-2026 school year. These workbooks are designed to support student learning by including:

- student reading notes pages
- primary sources
- checks for understanding
- activity pages
- performance tasks
- supplementary map or source activities, as appropriate

Educators can download workbooks from the [Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Social Studies Curriculum](#) web page or purchase copies for \$2 each from Core Knowledge at labayoubridges@coreknowledge.org.

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies Resources: Now Available

The LDOE Social Studies team has released several new, valuable resources to support high-quality instruction across K-12 classrooms. These additional Bayou Bridges and high school resources include

- Bayou Bridges Standards Trackers to ensure comprehensive coverage of each content standard;
- Bayou Bridges Resource Hubs to provide a centralized Google Sheet consolidating all internal and external resource links into one easy-to-access location;
- Bayou Bridges Alternate Pacing Guides for grades 3-8 that provide additional pacing options designed to offer greater flexibility for instructional planning;
- K-2 Instructional Slide Decks, developed in collaboration with the LDOE literacy team, to enhance student engagement, support lesson pacing, and facilitate formative assessments;
- Unit 1 of the World Geography and World History High School Frameworks to support instruction in high school social studies; and
- Student-facing [Performance Task Evidence Catchers](#) to help learners collect and organize key evidence to prepare for end-of-unit performance tasks.

Teachers are encouraged to visit the [Bayou Bridges: AK-8 Social Studies Curriculum](#) and [K-12 Social Studies Planning](#) pages to access these valuable new resources.

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

Freedom Framework Diploma Endorsement

The LDOE is pleased to introduce a new recognition for high school students who demonstrate excellence in civics education. Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, students who achieve a Mastery or higher on the LEAP 2025 civics assessment will receive a special diploma seal and a red, white, and blue honor cord to be worn during graduation. Teachers play a vital role in helping students achieve this distinction by sharing this opportunity, encouraging academic success, and supporting civic learning in the classroom.

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Now Available: Customizing HQIM Resources

Resources are now available for teachers who wish to customize their science HQIM through the purposeful integration of outdoor learning experiences. The [evaluation tool](#) provides teachers with a planning structure to identify key opportunities within science HQIM to incorporate these experiences without losing the rigor or coherence of the materials. [Additional guidance](#) is available on addressing common concerns related to incorporating outdoor learning experiences. These resources are available on the [K-12 Science Planning website](#), under the “Science Instructional Planning and Customization Resources” dropdown.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Now Available: LEAP 2025 Science Released Item Guides

The LDOE Division of Assessment Content has released the LEAP 2025 Science Released Item Guides containing released items, as well as alignment information, achievement level descriptors, rationale for answers, and the rubrics for constructed and extended-response items. These guides are for teachers and leaders to use to better understand how the achievement level descriptors are used in creating assessment items. These guides can be found on the [Assessment Guidance](#) Webpage under Science Assessment Resources.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STEM RESOURCES

Now Available: Grade 4 Computer Science Implementation Framework

The LDOE has released the [Grade 4 Computer Science Implementation Framework](#) to support teachers with planning and delivering high-quality computer science instruction. Implementation frameworks in the elementary grades provide guidance and strategies for effectively integrating computer science into classroom instruction. Frameworks for additional grades will be released in the coming months.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDTECH

Back to School LMS Support

The LDOE is excited to offer resources to help educators confidently implement best practices in their digital classrooms. To support all educators, the LDOE has developed a toolkit of Learning Management System (LMS) resources, including:

- [Back to School: Google Classroom](#)
- [Back to School: Preparing Your Canvas Course](#)
- [Back to School: Microsoft Teams](#)

Educators can find next steps and tutorials in the additional LMS support resources. Continue to visit the [Digital Learning webpage](#) for updates.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

New AI Guidance for Educators: The C.R.E.A.T.E. Framework and Strategic AI Integration Checklist

The LDOE has developed two new resources designed to help educators effectively and responsibly integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) into their classrooms: The [C.R.E.A.T.E. Framework for Effective AI Prompting](#) and [Strategic AI Integration: A Pre-Work Checklist for Educators](#).

The C.R.E.A.T.E. Framework offers a structured approach to designing effective AI prompts. This framework guides educators in crafting prompts by considering the following elements: **C**haracter, **R**esult, **E**xamples, **A**dditions, **T**ype of Output, and **E**xtras.

Before using any AI tool, educators are encouraged to review [Strategic AI Integration: A Pre-Work Checklist for Educators](#). The checklist emphasizes the importance of prioritizing intellectual preparation to maintain the integrity of high-quality instructional materials. Key steps in this pre-work include defining a clear purpose and need, understanding existing HQIM, identifying relevant student learning goals, engaging in lesson internalization, considering ethical implications and safety, planning prompts strategically, recognizing AI as a supportive tool, establishing a plan for human oversight and review, and ensuring alignment with educational objectives.

By utilizing these resources, educators can significantly improve the quality and relevance of AI-generated content. Prompt engineering is a refinement process, and continuous revision will lead to the best results.

For additional resources on AI in education, please visit our [Digital Learning webpage](#).

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Upcoming Review of Physical Education Standards- We Need Your Input!

Beginning in October, LDOE will launch the review and revision process for the state's Physical Education standards. As teacher leaders and stakeholders in the education community, your input is invaluable to this work. We invite you to complete a brief [survey](#) to share your feedback on the [current standards](#). This is a key step in ensuring our updated standards reflect the needs of all students and educators across the state.

To learn more about this important initiative, please see the [Physical Education Standards Overview](#) page, which includes details about the committee's scope, responsibilities, and timeline.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

2025-2026 Science Leader Community of Practice

The LDOE will host a series of [targeted professional learning opportunities](#) geared towards school and system leaders. Through a combination of virtual and in-person supports, leaders will

- analyze science HQIM through the lens of the Louisiana Educator Rubric (LER);
- increase capacity for facilitating purposeful teacher collaboration; and
- examine strategies for providing meaningful feedback on instructional practices and annotated lesson plans.

[Register](#) now to reserve your seat.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

LDOE Names State-Level Honorees for Award Programs

On July 26, the LDOE, in partnership with [Dream Teachers](#), hosted the *19th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Awards Gala* at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. The evening honored outstanding educators from across the state and celebrated their dedication to students, schools, and communities.

During the event, the LDOE announced the [overall and division-level honorees for 2026 Teacher and Principal of the Year](#), along with the [2026 New Teacher of the Year](#) and the [2026 Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year](#) honorees.

Also recognized were the [New Teacher of the Year finalists](#), [Early Childhood Teacher and Leader finalists](#), [Milken Educator Award](#) recipients, [Louisiana's Public Interest Fellow](#), and the [Teacher and Principal of the Year semifinalists and finalists](#).

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Finalists

The LDOE is proud to announce the finalists of the 2025 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, the nation's highest honor for K-12 STEM educators. The mathematics finalists are Emalie Dunn, Jamar Ferguson, and Kathleen Ullrich. The science finalists are Cecilia Gillam, Michelle Shirley, and Kalli Trahan. These outstanding educators will be recognized for their achievements at the December Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) meeting.

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

CONTACT US

For questions related to...	Contact:
AP Courses and Exams Contact	highschoolacademics@la.gov
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