



Teacher Leader Newsletter



January 2025



Greetings, Louisiana Educators! My name is Randie Barbera Bailey. I am a 23-year St. John the Baptist Parish Public Schools educator serving as a District Curriculum Facilitator assisting in math and science.

In my role, I get the opportunity to visit and support students and teachers throughout the district and see all the wonderful things happening inside the walls of our classrooms! Watching students get excited about math when they complete their three weekly Zearn lessons enforces the concept that students can learn while having fun! Here in St. John, we are so excited that the LDOE continues its [partnership with Zearn](#) through the 2024-2025 school year as it truly makes a difference in our district. Teachers see the difference it makes in students' mastering standards and overall confidence in mathematics. Our students love participating in their learning by tracking their progress on classroom charts or with a [Brainy Challenge!](#)

Zearn is a priority in our district because we saw its impact on student growth. Students were rewarded by their school sites with weekly, monthly, or quarterly rewards. Those students contributed to the increase in our District Performance Score!

St. John Parish teachers were able to participate in Zearn coaching and [support](#) during the 2023-2024 school year, which helped our teachers learn how to utilize the different components to the fullest to see growth in math for our students. I am honored to be a part of our success alongside our efforts with [Zearn!](#) Regardless of your content area, I encourage you to explore the [Louisiana Math](#) page and learn more about the impact Zearn has had on supporting our math students across all grade levels.

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TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

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." Early bird registration opened on January 6 and will close on February 3. Save and register early. Regular registration opens February 4. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration closes on March 14 or at sellout. 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.

Please contact ldoeevents@la.gov with questions.

ACADEMICS

Louisiana Student Standards for ELA and Math Review: Committee Applications Now Open

The LDOE will review the state's student standards for math and English language arts (ELA). The Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved the review process during their December meeting and the [standards review committee's application](#) is now open. Louisiana teachers, administrators, school system staff, higher education faculty, parents, and community members are encouraged to apply. Participation requires attendance at regular in-person meetings in Baton Rouge scheduled from April 2025 through July 2025. Funding is available for participants traveling long distances.

All interested educators, parents, and community members should [apply](#) by 8 a.m. on **January 27**.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@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 Project Endorsement Plus Early Interest Form/Mailing List](#) to receive information about Project Endorsement Plus opportunities.

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

ELA RESOURCES

ELA Professional Learning Opportunity for Teachers

The ELA content team will host a series of webinars focused on high-quality teaching during the spring semester. These sessions will empower teachers to plan for and implement important pedagogical moves to best support student learning.

The first session will occur on January 15 and interested teachers should [register](#) to participate. Participants will receive a Zoom invitation with the webinar link upon registration.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

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](#).

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 RESOURCES

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.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STEM RESOURCES

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 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 RECOGNITION

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.

CONTACT US

For questions related to...	Contact:
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