



Teacher Leader Newsletter



February 2025



My name is Trisha Mastainich Weaver, and I am honored to serve as a Teacher Leader Advisor (TLA). I have been in education for 29 years as a teacher, school improvement coordinator, and administrator. In kindergarten, I told my mother I wanted to be a teacher, and last year, I made the full circle by returning to the classroom as a 5th and 6th-grade social studies teacher at Fairview Alpha Elementary in Natchitoches Parish.

The Louisiana Department of Education adopted the [Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#) in 2022. These standards combine essential content knowledge for Louisiana, the United States, and the world with a thoughtful examination of primary and secondary sources. They utilize skills and practices that enable students to make connections and express claims based on historical evidence. Based on these standards, the Louisiana Department of Education

designed, piloted, and implemented [Bayou Bridges, a K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum](#) statewide.

This fall, TLAs have been working on tools for teachers to support the implementation of Bayou Bridges. The Louisiana Department of Education is creating and releasing new instructional slide decks on a rolling basis on the [Bayou Bridges webpage](#). They include core lesson teacher notes, student supports, images, and questions making implementation more convenient for teachers. Having visuals for student and teacher materials in one file will assist in lesson pacing, increase engagement, and enable teachers to complete formative checks throughout the chapter. With each section of the chapter having a slide with a related image and listed questions, I can set the purpose for reading as well as use the slides for my annotations in planning.

As social studies teachers, it is difficult to narrow down all of the history, civics, and geography that we need to teach to align with the expectations of the standards. However, the LDOE hopes this new tool will help focus teachers' instruction and students' learning by providing high-quality instructional materials that meet the standards.

In This Issue

- Support for Diverse Learners
- ELA Resources
- Social Studies Resources
- Math Resources
- Science Resources
- Computer Science and STEM Resources
- Educator Opportunities
- Contact Us

SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

Fast Track ESL Add-On

Teachers and leaders can access tuition-free courses 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.

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. Registration is linked below.

Please mark your calendars for the following days:

- [February 4](#)
- [May 14](#)

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

2025 Youth Leadership Forum Application Open

The 2025 Louisiana Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) is a four-day residential leadership program focused on empowering youth with disabilities while promoting an environment of disability culture and pride. This program gives delegates the skills needed to become future leaders!

YLF is currently recruiting staff and delegates for its four-day program this summer. The program will be held July 10-13 at the Louisiana State University at Eunice campus. All speakers are peer mentors with disabilities. In addition to learning about advocacy and leadership, delegates will have the opportunity to make like-minded friends and build community. Lodging, accommodations, and meals will be provided at no cost. Learn more at the [YLF website](#) and apply to be a delegate or staff member.

Please contact Lillian DeJean at ldejean@fhfacadiana.org with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

ELA Professional Learning Opportunity for ELA Instructional Leaders

The ELA content team will host a series of webinars focused on high-quality teaching during the spring semester. These sessions will empower leaders to support strong ELA instruction to maximize student learning.

The second session for ELA instructional leaders will occur on February 17. Interested leaders should [register](#) to participate. The third session for ELA instructional leaders will occur on March 10 and interested leaders should [register](#) to participate. Participants will receive a Zoom invitation with the webinar link upon registration.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Professional Learning Opportunity for ELA 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 second session for teachers will occur on February 19 and interested teachers should [register](#) to participate. The third session for teachers will occur on March 12 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](#).

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Foundations of Freedom Webpage

The LDOE is excited to announce the upcoming release of the [Foundations of Freedom. A Louisiana Civics Program webpage](#). Beginning January 31, teachers can use the webpage to view a sample unit and other

curriculum features, such as the unit study tool. Once the curriculum is fully released this spring, the unit study tool will allow for collaborative planning and pacing of the curriculum for the upcoming school year.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies Office Hours

The LDOE social studies team is continuing monthly office hours to support the implementation of [Bayou Bridges, a K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum](#). Join us for our second meeting from 3:15 p.m.-4 p.m. on Wednesday, February 5.

To participate, educators should use the Zoom link below to join during the scheduled time. For more information on dates and topics, see the [Social Studies Office Hours flyer](#).

Webinar Date and Time: Wednesday, February 5 at 3:15 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92800306323?pwd=eObx7y79EwbnVD70GfK2nHap7GN7qV.1>

Webinar Phone Number: 1 346 248 7799

Meeting ID#: 928 0030 6323 Meeting

Passcode: 644638

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Bayou Bridges Instructional Slide Decks

Bayou Bridges instructional slide decks for Unit 5, as well as Unit 6, for grades 3 and 8, are now available. Instructional slide decks can be accessed on the [Bayou Bridges](#) landing page.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Zearn Reminders

Teachers should regularly monitor data on [Zearn Implementation](#), using [Zearn Tools](#) and Class Reports to reflect on key factors of planning, behavior management, engagement, and goal setting.

Consider the following:

- Are teachers and students signing in to Zearn regularly?
- Are students getting 90 minutes per week with Zearn?
- Are students completing three **grade-level** Zearn lessons per week?
- Are expectations clear and in place for students who **meet** the 90 minutes per week goal?
- Are expectations clear and in place for students who **are not meeting** the 90 minutes per week goal?

Join [Zearn/Louisiana Leader Collaboration](#) on Tuesdays throughout the school year to discuss implementation with leaders from systems across the state. The next meeting is March 11 at 9 a.m.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with any questions.

Act 260: Numeracy Training

To meet the deadline of August 1 completion, grades 4-8 mathematics teachers and leaders should reference the [suggested pacing schedule](#).

- February (approximately 53% complete)
 - Module 14: Applying Ratio and Proportional Relationships
 - Module 15: Use Properties of Operations to Generate Equivalent Expressions

All content modules for the optional grades K-3 course have been published in the Louisiana Professional Learning Platform. The post-test and completion certificate will be available by March 1.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with any questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Updated Science Implementation Guides

The LDOE is updating the implementation guides for high-quality instructional materials in science. The update adds LDOE Formative Assessment Items, LEAP Practice Test Items, and LEAP Assessment Guide Items correlated to the Louisiana Student Standards for Science (LSSS) for each unit of the respective high-quality materials.

The revised guides are now available on the [K-12 Science Planning Page](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STEM RESOURCES

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. Teachers may register for either training using the [online form](#).

Please contact energize@southeastern.edu 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, with training cohorts being held from February through June.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Diverse Learners and Early Childhood Teacher Leader Advisor Applications Now Open

The LDOE is excited to announce that applications are now being accepted for Diverse Learners (English Learners) and Early Childhood [Teacher Leader Advisors](#) (TLAs). TLAs serve an essential role in supporting the implementation of the Louisiana Student Standards by creating resources and providing training for teachers. Interested educators should submit their [applications](#) by March 3.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

CONTACT US

For questions related to...	Contact:
AP Courses and Exams Contact	highschoolacademics@la.gov
Assessments and Related Supports	assessment@la.gov
Collaborations	districtsupport@la.gov
Compass	compass@la.gov
Content Leaders and Mentor Teachers	believeandprepare@la.gov
Educational Leader Licensure Policy Update	believeandprepare@la.gov
Educator Background Credentialing	educatorclearance@la.gov
ELA Guidebooks	elaguidebooks@la.gov
Environmental Education	environmentaleducation@la.gov
Financial Aid Assistance	ldefinancial@la.gov
Graduation Requirements	highschoolacademics@la.gov
Instructional Support and Resources	classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov
Jump Start	jumpstart@la.gov
Literacy	louisianaliteracy@la.gov

PD Vendor Guide	louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov
Pupil Progression Plan	ppp@la.gov
Registration for the Teacher Leader Summit	ldoeevents@la.gov
STEM	STEM@la.gov
Teacher Certification	certification@la.gov
Teacher Leaders and Teacher Leader Advisors	classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov
EdTech/Digital Learning	digitallearning@la.gov