



Teacher Leader Newsletter



February 2026



My name is Kendrick Nwafor, and I serve as an Information Technology and Networking Instructor at the East Baton Rouge Career & Technical Education Center (CTEC). Born and raised in Baton Rouge and a proud graduate of Southern University's Computer Science program, I am inspired by how computer science opens doors for Louisiana students.

Computer science plays an essential role in our daily lives, and early exposure helps students better understand and navigate the world around them. When planning instruction, I utilize resources from the Computer Science Web page, including the [K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science](#) and other implementation resources. These materials are instrumental in aligning my lessons to state expectations while ensuring rigor and relevance.

In my role at CTEC, I have the unique privilege of teaching high school students from across the system who may not have access to this pathway at their home schools. Through hands-on learning, dual enrollment opportunities, partnerships with industry, field experiences, and industry-based credentials, my students gain real-world experiences that prepare them for the workforce. Their success is a direct reflection of the power and relevance of computer science in every modern career field.

The East Baton Rouge Parish School System Computer Science Implementation Team is an integral piece of the broad implementation efforts within our system. As a part of this team, I provide insight from the perspective of a current classroom instructor — helping ensure the rollout of the state standards is meaningful, feasible, and aligned to student needs. I value the opportunity to support this work and to advocate for high-quality computer science instruction at all grade levels.

I believe strongly that skills used in computer science, like computational thinking, problem solving, and logical reasoning, are beneficial to all core subject areas. I am committed to helping students strengthen those skills while exploring career opportunities. Helpful [instructional resources](#) are available for teachers of all subjects. Explore the resources available to help students make meaningful connections in all content areas.

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NUMERACY RESOURCES

Louisiana Achievement in Numeracy Act (LANE)

Per [Act 260 \(2023\)](#) and [Act 353 of 2025 \(LANE\)](#), all K–8 math teachers must complete an LDOE-approved numeracy course. An optional numeracy course for high school math teachers is also available.

Teachers should reach out to their system-level numeracy contacts for access to system-specific course codes through the 2025–2026 school year. For more information, see the [Guidance and Framing](#) document on the [Louisiana Math web page](#).

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Zearn Math Challenge

The LDOE is excited to invite math educators to participate in [Zearn's Louisiana Math Challenge](#). This challenge provides a collection of kits filled with resources designed to motivate students and celebrate their achievement as they complete at least three grade-level Zearn lessons each week. Visit [Zearn's Louisiana Math Challenge](#) webpage to see how schools across the state are celebrating student success and to download challenge materials to use in the classroom.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

ELA Classroom Support Tool

The LDOE has updated the [K-2 Classroom Support Tool](#) and [3-12 Classroom Support Tool](#) to align with the language in the Louisiana Educator Rubric. Teachers can use these resources as a reflection tool to examine their classroom practices, and instructional leaders can use these tools to examine the quality of classroom instruction.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Social Studies Office Hours

The LDOE will hold Social Studies Office Hours on March 4 at 3:15 p.m. During this session, the LDOE will define and explore effective teacher planning by examining the social studies lesson study protocol outlined in the Bayou Bridges and Foundations of Freedom Curriculum Guides. Participants will identify the instructional decisions that enhance student learning. Teachers will also deepen their understanding by analyzing a page from the teacher guide to recognize the teaching strategies embedded in the lesson.

Teachers may access past office hours slides and information on upcoming sessions on the [Social Studies Office Hours Flyer](#).

Webinar Date and Time: March 4 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

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

K-2 Social Studies Instructional Slide Decks

[K-2 Instructional Slide Decks](#) are now available on the [Bayou Bridges web page](#). These tools strengthen knowledge building, support effective lesson pacing, and offer built-in opportunities for formative assessments. Each deck includes images, framing questions, supporting questions, and teacher notes needed to guide Bayou Bridges lessons.

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STEM RESOURCES

Quality STEM Implementation Guide

The updated [K-12 Quality STEM Implementation Guide](#) is now available on the [STEM Initiative webpage](#). This resource provides K-12 educators, as well as school systems, with

- an overview of STEM education;
- K-8 STEM resources reviewed by Louisiana STEM Teacher Leader Advisors (TLAs), including newly added resources from Project Lead The Way (PLTW) – PLTW Launch (Grades K-5) and PLTW Gateway (Grades 6-8);
- an overview of 9-12 Louisiana STEM Renaissance Pathways; and
- available STEM awards, clubs, and competitions.

This resource supports K-12 STEM implementation in STEM or content classrooms, after-school/summer programs, and school-wide STEM events.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

EDL Alternative Pathway 4 LDOE Training

The EDL Alternative Pathway 4 offers a unique opportunity for current MPA, MBA, or JD holders and honorably discharged commissioned officers from the US military to obtain an Educational Leadership Certificate. To be eligible, you must complete training provided by the LDOE and pass either the School Leadership Licensure Assessment or the Louisiana Leadership Assessment Series. Interested applicants should complete the [Spring Principal Boot Camp Application](#) for the Fall 2026 Boot Camp.

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

BESE Tuition Program for Teachers

The [BESE Tuition Program for Teachers](#) Applications is opening soon for summer/fall 2026. This program provides tuition funding for classroom teachers to enroll in courses at regionally accredited colleges or universities in Louisiana. Online applications for coursework funding for the summer and fall 2026 semesters will open soon. Program details, as well as a link to the application, are available on the [Continuing Opportunities for Educators page](#).

For questions about the BESE Tuition Program for Teachers, visit the [Frequently Asked Questions page](#).

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

Louisiana School Custodian Named National RISE Award Honoree

On January 22, the U.S. Secretary of Education, Linda McMahon named Donella Wagner, Head Custodian at Raintree Elementary School in St. Mary Parish Public Schools, as the 2026 National Recognizing Inspiring School Employees (RISE) Award honoree. The RISE Award is the nation's highest recognition for education support professionals.

Wagner was selected from a national pool of nominees representing more than 20 states and jurisdictions. With more than 27 years of service, she is recognized for her dedication to students, her school, and the broader Baldwin community.

Congratulations to Donella Wagner on this well-deserved national honor!

For more information, read the [press release](#).

Please contact excellenteducators@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
EdTech/Digital Learning	digitallearning@la.gov
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Teacher Leaders and Teacher Leader Advisors	classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov