



Teacher Leader Newsletter



March 2025



My name is Courtney Cenac, and I am the Science Curriculum Facilitator for Lafourche Parish School District. I taught high school for 14 years before entering this role last summer. My position allows me to interact with our amazing science teachers and administrators and to aid them in growing our students into scientists and engineers in our classrooms!

As a participant in the 2024 High School Science Leader Cohort, I began the school year with the insight and ability to better support science teaching and learning in our district. The cohort allowed me to understand “the why” behind phenomena-driven, three-dimensional instructional shifts in science called for by the [Louisiana Student Standards for Science \(LSSS\)](#). Student understanding of scientific ideas is significantly enhanced when they are anchored in investigative experiences. Getting our students to engage in science and engineering practices, think

through the lens of crosscutting concepts, figure out disciplinary core ideas, and explain phenomena requires a unique approach to planning.

When planning with teachers in my system, I frequently utilize several LDOE resources. The first is the implementation guides. These guides, recently updated on the [K-12 science planning page](#), serve as a hub for unit materials, pacing and unit order guidance, and formative assessment resources - all in one place for easy access. Additionally, a comprehensive analysis of the Assessment Guides brings to light how the LEAP assesses the rigor and depth of our standards for teachers and administrators. We also utilize [practice test items](#) to engage in meaningful discussions about the three-dimensional thinking required of students and how to leverage our curricular materials to support that thinking.

To help educators build their capacity in science planning, the LDOE is offering in-person, regional professional development sessions for [teachers](#) and [leaders](#). If you're looking to enhance your expertise or connect with fellow educators, sign up today for the [2025 Teacher Leader Summit](#) or one of the exciting summer learning opportunities available for science [teachers](#) and [leaders](#).

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SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Funding Priority Survey

Each year, the LDOE submits a grant application on the use of state-level IDEA funds to the U.S. Department of Education. As part of this year's grant application development process, the LDOE is seeking feedback on how to prioritize funding for allowable special education activities. Any interested stakeholders, including school system representatives, parents, and other members of the public should complete the [survey](#) by March 14.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with any questions.

ELA RESOURCES

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](#).

[Registration](#) is now open for the Louisiana Library Association and Southeastern Library Association Annual Conference, which will take place March 20-22 in Baton Rouge.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Bayou Bridges Office Hours

The LDOE social studies team will hold their fourth office hours session on April 2 at 3:15 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 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 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 with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

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 attend to the following modules in March.

- Module 16: Reason About and Solve One-Variable Equations Part 1
- Module 17: Reason About and Solve One-Variable Equations Part 2

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

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](#) by May 1 to express interest in continuing Zearn engagement. Only one form is required per system.

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

- Monitor student engagement in three grade-level lessons per week
- Encourage teachers to check reports
- Celebrate schools, classes, teachers, and students meeting goals

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

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 with questions.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STEM RESOURCES

Energize Initiative Praxis (5652) Computer Science Content Exam Preparation for 6-12 Teachers

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 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 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 with questions.

WORLD LANGUAGES

International Associate Teacher Program

Schools and systems requesting international teachers during the 2025-2026 International Associate Teacher Program recruitment cycle should complete and sign their Superintendent Signing Statements via DocuSign by March 15.

Please consult the [Louisiana International Associate Teacher Program Guide](#) for more information on recruitment guidelines and timelines.

Please contact language.acquisition@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

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 partnerships. These opportunities range from virtual to in-person teacher and class language, culture, 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 complete the [International Program Opportunities and Exchanges Survey](#) by May 1.

Please contact language.acquisition@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Development Educator Review Committees

The Division of Assessment Content will convene assessment committees for the LEAP assessment in May and June to:

- Review newly developed items for alignment, content-related criteria, and appropriateness for all Louisiana students (Science and Social Studies)
- Develop expectations for the scoring of field-tested LEAP constructed-response items and extended-response tasks (Science, Math, and Social Studies)

Interested educators should access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees](#) document for information on specific dates, meeting details, application links, and deadlines to apply for committee participation. The deadline to complete the applications is March 14.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Stay Informed with the LEADS Educator Newsletter

The LDOE has launched the LEADS Educator Newsletter, a monthly publication designed to provide in-depth guidance on key aspects of the LEADS process. This newsletter serves as a valuable resource for educators, offering expert insights, best practices, and peer-driven advice to support a smooth transition to LEADS.

Each edition focuses on a specific topic relevant to teachers and leaders. Previous issues have covered:

- [Self-Assessment](#)
- [Tips for Effectively Planning for Instruction](#)
- [Preparing for a Successful Post-Conference](#)
- [The 6-Step Coaching Cycle](#)
- [Exploring LEADS Resources & Supports](#)

Teachers and leaders are encouraged to [subscribe to the LEADS Educator Newsletter](#) to receive these valuable insights directly in their inbox each month.

Please contact leads@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
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