



March 2024



My name is Casey Hendricks, and I currently serve as the 6-12 social studies curriculum specialist for the St. Tammany Parish School Board. This is my 24th year as a social studies educator and my second year as a [Teacher Leader Advisor \(TLA\)](#).

This year, my fellow TLAs and I have been working to update the social studies course frameworks aligned to the [2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#) (LSSSS). Together, we have prioritized updating these resources to better support teachers as they implement the 2022 LSSSS. This additional support will help teachers make instructional decisions centered around the students' instructional needs.

My part of this project has been focused on the updates to the high school Civics course framework. Newly written document-based questions prompt students to dissect primary sources, including constitutional texts and political speeches, thus fostering a multifaceted understanding of the

development of the United States government and civic principles. I am excited to see how these new resources will help students apply social studies content knowledge to make and express claims based on evidence.

[Teacher Leader Summit](#) is just around the corner, and I hope to see you there! A series of social studies sessions will focus on supporting teachers implementing the [Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum](#) and will support teachers with internalizing lessons, pacing, and backward planning. Additionally, a session will be devoted to the implementation of the new resources added to the Civics course framework. Teacher Leader Summit will have an abundance of sessions on a variety of topics for all content areas. I hope you will join us at the Teacher Leader Summit. I'm sure you will find sessions that support your own professional learning goals!

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TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

Teacher Leader Summit

The LDOE is counting down the days until the annual [Teacher Leader Summit](#), which will take place May 28 through May 30! Please join us in New Orleans for our annual professional learning conference that brings together Louisiana's birth to grade 12 educators and content experts. Educators participating in the event will share their knowledge, learn new skills, and prepare for the 2024-2025 school year. This year's Teacher Leader Summit will focus on *Leading the Next Level* every single day.

Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. [Registration](#) closes on **March 15** or at sellout.

Please contact events@emergentmethod.com with questions.

LITERACY

Individual Reading Plans

Students who scored below benchmark on the MOY DIBELS 8th Literacy Screener need an individual reading plan. Those students who are still below benchmark from the BOY window should continue with their reading plan as well. Parents should be notified within 30 days of screening to review their child's plan. Interventions, as well as progress monitoring, should continue through the next screening window which begins April 1 for EOY.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

State Special Education Advisory Panel Application Open

The LDOE is looking for individuals interested in serving on the state's Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP), which advises and assists the LDOE with the provision of free and appropriate public education for individuals with disabilities across the state. Members of SEAP represent public and private sectors that, by virtue of their position, interest, or training, can contribute information in regard to the education of students with disabilities. Fifty-one percent of the members must be parents of a child with a disability (ages birth through 26) or individuals with disabilities. Anyone interested in serving in one or more of the roles should email their [application](#) to specialeducation@la.gov by **April 8**.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Kindergarten Dyslexia Screening

[ACT 266](#) requires teachers to screen all kindergarten students for dyslexia during the second half of the school year or upon request of a parent/guardian or teacher. Please review the following timeline to learn more about this process.

February:

- The LDOE will finalize the procurement process for a statewide kindergarten administration of the Shaywitz DyslexiaScreen.

March:

- The LDOE will send rosters to special education directors.
- Special education directors will share rosters with site leaders.
- Site leaders will set up screenings at the class level.
- LDOE will provide a live one-hour training for kindergarten teachers with general information on dyslexia and the administration of the screener.

April:

- Kindergarten teachers will screen all kindergarten students. (All screening is to be completed by the end of April.)

May:

- At-risk results are reported to parents or guardians within 30 days of screener completion.

Additional information regarding this process will be shared in the Weekly School System Newsletter.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2024)

Additional units for [ELA Guidebooks 6-8 \(2024\)](#) are now available on [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#). All development 1-5 and application units will be available this spring, and the development 6 units will be available this fall.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum Updates

All grade 7 Bayou Bridges units are now available. Please navigate to the [Bayou Bridges Resource page](#) to access. Units are aligned to meet the [2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#). All grade 8 units will be published by **April 12**.

The LDOE has published a new [curriculum guide](#) to support teachers and instructional leaders as they implement Bayou Bridges materials. The guide provides in-depth information on the program's guiding principles, design, key components and resources, unit and lesson study tools, along with sample lesson annotations.

Teachers and leaders should use this resource to help navigate the curriculum, to better understand its key components, and to effectively plan and implement Bayou Bridges lessons. This guide will continue to be updated as additional units are published.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana History Professional Development Opportunity

The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) will host the second annual Institute for Louisiana Culture and History (ILCH) intensive workshop for Louisiana social studies K-12 educators June 24-26, in New Orleans. This workshop will focus on Louisiana's Reconstruction-era history.

The summer intensive workshop will provide Louisiana public school social studies educators the opportunity to build their content knowledge by engaging with nationally known scholars, taking field trips promoting experiential learning, and participating in working sessions exploring standards-aligned resources from [64 Parishes](#).

Social studies educators, teacher coaches, and curriculum specialists employed by public schools in Louisiana can [apply](#) to participate in the summer intensive workshop. Preference will be given to those working with grade 7 social studies content. Applications close **April 1**.

Please contact shelburne@leh.org with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Financial Literacy Implementation

To better support educators with the new Financial Literacy requirements, the LDOE has posted [Financial Literacy Frequently Asked Questions](#) to the [Math Refresh page](#). This includes information about the policy, course description information, and graduation requirements.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Rolling Updates to Implementation Guides

To better support educators with science planning, the LDOE is updating science implementation guides on the [K-12 Science Planning Page](#). The first round of updates will include more specific information to assist with pacing. The revised [Grade 7 Louisiana Guide to Implementing OpenSciEd](#) is available now, with Grades 6 and 8 coming soon. Louisiana guides for implementing all high-quality science instructional materials will be released on a rolling basis ahead of the 2024-2025 school year.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDTECH

Kami Mania Sweeps the State

Thirty-seven school systems (and counting) are gearing up for a fantastic year with upgraded [Kami](#) licenses. Don't miss out!

The LDOE will be hosting multiple professional learning options throughout the summer to support teachers and leaders in sharpening their Kami skills.

- Teacher Leader Summit (May 28-30): Dive deep into Kami implementation and best practices.
- Summer Webinar Series (June 4-July 18): Weekly online sessions for content-specific support.
- Face-to-Face Trainings (July 22-26): Regional in-person workshops for hands-on learning.

Stay tuned for registration info through LDOE communication channels. Next school year will be a Kami-tastic adventure!

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Assessment Literacy Initiative

The LDOE assessment content team and the Center for Assessment will host the final session of the monthly webinar series on **April 11**. The focus of this session is Local Assessment System Audits: How Do Teachers and Leaders Know if the Collection of Assessments They Administer is Any Good? (Part 2)

Each session in the [Effective Assessment Practices](#) series will provide opportunities for Louisiana educators – both leaders and classroom educators – to learn about and discuss the most important and practical topics related to assessment in school systems and classrooms. An optional question-and-answer session will take place immediately following the webinar. For your convenience, the webinar will be recorded.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 11 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87904855592>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 646 931 3860
- **Webinar ID#:** 879 0485 5592
- **Passcode:** 418123

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Development Educator Review Committees

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

- review newly developed items for alignment, content-related criteria, and bias or sensitivity concerns (Science), and
- 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 exact dates, meeting details, and links to apply to participate on specific committees. The deadline to complete applications is **March 24**.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

CONTACT US

For questions related to...	Contact
AP Courses and Exams Contact	collegereadiness@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
Diverse Learners	diverselearnersupport@la.gov
EdTech	digitallearning@la.gov
Educational Leader Licensure Policy Update	believeandprepare@la.gov
ELA and 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
Language Acquisition	language.acquisition@la.gov
Literacy	louisianaliteracy@la.gov
PD Vendor Guide	louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov
Pupil Progressions	ppp@la.gov
Registration for the Teacher Leader Summit	ldoeevents@la.gov
Math, Science, and STEM	STEM@la.gov
Teacher Certification	certification@la.gov
Teacher Leaders and Teacher Leader Advisors	classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov
World Languages	language.acquisition@la.gov