



April 2024



My name is Rusti Nelson and I am a kindergarten teacher at Valverda Elementary School in Pointe Coupee Parish. I have been teaching for six years. My favorite thing about my role as an early childhood educator is that I get to jumpstart the reading journey for my students.

The growth I see in my students from the beginning of the year to the end is astounding. The K-3 Literacy Screener, which is a universal screener that identifies students who may be at risk for experiencing reading difficulties, is a key contributor to that success. Teachers use the data from the screener to set and monitor literacy goals, as well as provide instructional support. My beginning of the year (BOY) to middle of the year (MOY) DIBELS [literacy screener](#) results in Phoneme Segmentation Fluency (PSF) grew from 28% of my students *at or above benchmark* to 89% *at or above benchmark*. Using the DIBELS screener, I have been able to monitor the progress and pinpoint the needs of each of my students. Phoneme segmentation is a priority skill that my co-teachers and I progress monitor to determine who needs just-in-time supports and

who has mastered the targeted skill. Based on that knowledge, we are able to make our science of reading (SOR) intervention groups and address the specific areas of support our students need, as well as differentiate our core instruction to better personalize it for our students.

The data teachers obtain from the DIBELS screener is a gold mine of information! Teachers are able to determine what specific skills their students need improvement in and then use that data to help their students achieve mastery of those skills.

As the youngest learners in Louisiana begin their journey to becoming successful readers, I know with resources like the literacy screener available to teachers, we can make all the difference. Regardless of your content area, I encourage you to explore the [LDOE Literacy Library](#) page and learn more about how you can contribute to improving your students' literacy skills.

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Dates To Consider

- April 10 [Robotics Lab Pilot Application due](#)
- April 11 at 3:30 p.m. [Effective Assessment Practices Webinar](#)
- April 15 [Dyslexia Training Application due](#)
- April 22 at 12 p.m. [LEADS Informational Webinars for Counselors](#)
- April 22 at 3:30 p.m. [LEADS Informational Webinars for Teachers](#)
- April 23 [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees Application due](#)
- April 24 at 4 p.m. [LEADS Informational Webinars for Teachers](#)
- May 28-30 [Teacher Leader Summit](#)

TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

Teacher Leader Summit

Registration for [Teacher Leader Summit](#) is currently SOLD OUT! Please use the [registration link](#) to be added to the waitlist. The waitlisted attendees will be notified of acceptance as space becomes available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please contact events@emergentmethod.com with questions.

SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

Dyslexia Training Opportunity

Through a partnership between the Louisiana Department of Education and the Dyslexia Resource Center, a cohort of 25 educators will be selected to participate in a dyslexia practitioner training program. Certified teachers who are interested should apply to the program by completing the [Dyslexia Training Application](#) before **April 15**.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

Accessing ELA Guidebooks 3.0 (2018) Content - Important Notice

Beginning in June, the open access version ELA Guidebooks 3.0 (2018) curriculum for grades 3-8 will be available exclusively on [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#) via bulk download. While this content can be downloaded and a personal version saved to Google Drive, only the content accessed directly on Louisiana Curriculum Hub will contain updates to materials, such as the text access document.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Updates to Social Studies Course Frameworks

Updated [Social Studies Course Frameworks](#) for grades 3 through 8, high school Civics, and high school U.S. History will be released on May 20. LDOE updated these suggested resources to better support teachers in implementing the [2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#) (LSSSS).

Course Frameworks retain resources for setting context and developing content knowledge, exploring primary and secondary sources, and developing and expressing claims. Document-based questions have been added to primary sources and possible student responses to questions to support teachers during instructional planning.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Family Math Engagement Page

The [Family Math Engagement](#) provides math resources for schools to promote continued summer engagement in math learning with families. Educators can find available resources on the families, caregivers, and communities pillar graphic on the [Math Refresh](#) page.

Resources available include:

- Grab & Go activities for families; and
- resources to support families with Zearn.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Zearn for Summer Learning

Summer learning materials should be of the same quality as those used during the school year. The LDOE partnership with Zearn, continuing through summer 2026, provides a great tool to support continued summer learning for students in formal programs and those learning at home. For ideas on implementing Zearn in summer programs or supporting parents this summer, reference the [Summer Math Learning](#) guidance.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Save the Date: High School Science Summer Professional Learning

To continue support for systems transitioning to OpenSciEd courses in high school biology or chemistry, the LDOE is hosting regional professional learning sessions for educators. Registration is free for any public or public charter school educator to attend the sessions. More details will come, but educators are encouraged to save the following dates for these opportunities.

- July 15-19 (location to be determined)
- July 22-26 (location to be determined)

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDTECH

LACUE Tech Leader Summit

Registration is now open for the [LACUE Tech Leader Summit!](#) Network with fellow educators and hone your tech leadership expertise.

The call for proposals is also open! Share your expertise and inspire fellow educators by submitting your [session proposal](#) by **April 26**.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Middle Grades (7-8) Robotics Lab Pilot Application Now Available

The LDOE will offer a unique opportunity to engage students in an innovative Robotics Lab Pilot (Grades 7 and 8) for the 2024-2025 school year, blending mathematics and technology to provide exposure to beginning concepts in robotics and computational thinking through hands-on learning. Students will utilize block-based coding to accomplish mathematics tasks within a context that fosters a strong connection between abstract concepts and real-world applications. Please review the [Robotics Lab Pilot Overview](#) to learn more about program details and commitments involved. A two-day in-person teacher training will be held at the end of June for participating schools.

Interested teachers and school systems are invited to complete the [Robotics Lab Pilot Application](#) no later than **April 10**.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

LEADS Informational Webinars

The Division of Educator Talent and Workforce Development will host a series of informational webinars for targeted audiences to provide an overview of the Louisiana Educator Advancement and Development System (LEADS). Topics include policy updates, evaluation components, and the evaluation process. Sessions will be recorded and published.

Counselors

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 22 at 12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96506543098>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 965 0654 3098

Teachers: Option 1

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 22 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91593299793>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 915 9329 9793

Teachers: Option 2

- **Webinar Date and Time:** April 24 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96895644525>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 968 9564 4525

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Literacy Initiative

The LDOE assessment content team and the Center for Assessment will host the April 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. 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 assessments from June to August to review newly developed items for alignment, content-related criteria, and appropriateness for Louisiana students (Math), and to review and analyze performance data from field-tested items (Social Studies).

Interested educators should access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees](#) document for information on exact dates, meeting details, and links and deadlines to apply to participate on specific committees. The deadline to complete these applications is **April 23**.

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	events@emergentmethod.com
Math, Science, STEM, and Computer Science	STEM@la.gov
Teacher Certification	certification@la.gov
Teacher Leaders and Teacher Leader Advisors	classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov
World Languages	language.acquisition@la.gov