



Teacher Leader Newsletter



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Hi! My name is Jillian Olivero. I serve the students and educators of Jefferson Parish Schools. As an English Language Arts (ELA) Coordinator, I am deeply committed to improving literacy and student learning experiences. Being a part of the ELA standards review work group was an exciting opportunity to collaborate with colleagues and other stakeholders from across the state and contribute to work that will impact classrooms for years to come!

At the March 2026 meeting, BESE reviewed and approved the revised K-12 standards for [ELA](#) and [math](#). This is incredibly important because standards serve as the foundation for everything we do in the classroom; think of them as the “what.” Standards shape instruction, guide curriculum decisions, and ultimately impact student outcomes. As a member of the ELA work group for grades K-5, I collaborated with my fellow educators to review and update the ELA standards for our grade band. Revising them ensures the intent remains clear, rigorous, and aligned to what students truly need to be successful readers, writers,

and thinkers.

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is offering multiple professional learning opportunities to support preparation for the 2027–2028 standards implementation. Educators can learn more about the updated standards by attending sessions at the [2026 Teacher Leader Summit](#) or by participating in one of the LDOE’s summer Standards Institutes for [ELA](#) and [math](#), held in regions across the state. Registration for the Standards Institutes is now open, and space is limited.

As educators, it’s fair to say we all share a common goal: helping students become successful, lifelong learners. Whether you teach ELA, math, biology, or music, engaging in this work strengthens our collective impact. I hope that you see the revised standards as more than just a (*lovely*) document, but rather as an opportunity to reflect and reimagine what’s possible for our Louisiana students!

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NUMERACY RESOURCES

K–12 Math Standards Institutes

On March 12, BESE approved the updated K–12 Louisiana Student Standards for Mathematics, marking an important step forward in strengthening math instruction across the state. To support educators in preparing for successful implementation, the LDOE will host regional [Standards Institutes](#).

These institutes will offer multiple sessions beginning this summer, giving educators flexible opportunities to engage with the new standards and build readiness for the upcoming changes.

Educators can find registration details, session locations, and additional information on the [Louisiana Math](#) webpage under the Standards Institutes Resources section. Registration is currently open.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

LITERACY RESOURCES

Updated K–2 Skills Unit and Lesson Preparation Protocols

The K–2 Skills [Unit](#) and [Lesson](#) Preparation Protocols have been updated. Use the latest version of the protocols when planning for summer instruction and the beginning of the school year. The K–2 Skills Unit Preparation Protocol is designed to ensure that teachers understand the skills and standards taught and assessed throughout a K–2 skills unit. The K–2 Skill Lesson Preparation Protocol is divided into phase 1 and phase 2 to provide differentiated support for annotating and planning lessons.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Summer Literacy Learning

It is important to ensure literacy learning occurs over the summer. Consider what materials can be sent home to help students continue developing their literacy skills during the summer. High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) offer resources that support families. Additionally, educators can use resources in the [Louisiana Literacy Library](#) under [Families](#).

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

English Learner (EL) Fellows Program (Cohort 2)

The LDOE is pleased to announce that the [application](#) for Cohort 2 of the English Learner (EL) Fellows Program for the 2026–2027 school year is now open. This opportunity is designed for novice EL coordinators, coaches, and program leaders with 0–3 years of experience and focuses on strengthening EL programming, instruction, and leadership through collaborative learning and a capstone project.

[Applications](#) must be submitted by **Friday, May 8**.

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

ELA RESOURCES

ELA Standards Institute

The LDOE is hosting [ELA Standards Institutes](#) in various regions of the state this summer. Registration is now open, but space is limited. Registration will close when the session is filled.

Educators in the following school systems should use the registration link provided to them by their system: Ascension, Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Plaquemines, and Tangipahoa.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Land of Liberty Summer Professional Learning

The LDOE is offering free, in-person regional professional learning opportunities to support high school U.S. History instruction on **June 17 and 18**.

Educators are invited to attend half-day sessions focused on implementing [Land of Liberty: The History of the United States](#), during which participants will explore the curriculum, engage in lesson study, and plan for performance tasks.

- Time: Half-day sessions, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Locations: St. Tammany Parish and Ouachita Parish
- Registration deadline: **June 15**

See the [Land of Liberty Summer Professional Learning flyer](#) for session dates, locations, and the [registration form](#).

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies Summer Professional Learning

The LDOE is offering professional learning sessions designed to support both classroom practice and instructional leadership in social studies in July.

The morning session (8:30–11:30 a.m.) is designed for leaders and focuses on the [Social Studies Walkthrough Tool](#). Participants will identify key indicators of high-quality social studies instruction and learn to provide clear, actionable feedback aligned to the Louisiana Department of Education [Louisiana Educator Rubric](#) (LER).

The afternoon session (12:30–3:30 p.m.) is designed for teachers and focuses on the K–2 Knowledge Building Cards. Teachers will explore how content knowledge and vocabulary develop in early grades and plan lessons using the cards alongside high-quality instructional materials. Participants will receive a free set of grade-level Knowledge Building Cards while supplies last.

Reference the [K–2 Knowledge Building Cards Professional Learning flyer](#) and the [Social Studies Walkthrough Tool Professional Learning flyer](#) for dates and locations. To request a seat in one of the half-day sessions, complete the registration form by **June 30**.

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

Coming Soon: Social Studies Resources

The LDOE is releasing several new resources this summer to support social studies instruction, including:

- Grade Band Standards Roadmaps, demonstrating how standards progress across grades, highlight the development of key ideas and skills over time, and support lesson planning through the use of prior knowledge and foundational concepts;
- Foundations of Freedom and Land of Liberty Instructional Slide Decks, which are ready-to-use presentations that guide lesson delivery with questions, visuals, and tasks to support consistent, standards-aligned instruction; and
- Bayou Bridges K–2 Knowledge Building Cards, which are colorful, two-sided 5” x 7” cards that make vocabulary words visible, recurring, and interactive, helping students build and reinforce social studies knowledge through short, frequent practice during small- or whole-group instruction.

Educators can access the Grade Band Standards Roadmaps on the [K–12 Social Studies Planning](#) webpage under the Implementation document list, the Instructional Slide Decks on the [Foundations of Freedom](#) and [Land of Liberty](#) webpages, and the Bayou Bridges K–2 Vocabulary Cards on the [Bayou Bridges](#) webpage. These resources will be available this summer.

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Updated Amplify Science Grades 6–8 Implementation Guides

The LDOE is updating the implementation guides for Amplify Grades 6–8 to better support educators and leaders in planning for the 2026–2027 school year. Updates include more specific pacing information and scope and sequence integration of Internship units. This guidance will appear in the implementation guides on the [K–12 Science Planning Page](#) in June.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

OpenSciEd Grades 6–8 Guidance for 2026–2027

The LDOE is developing new guidance for the 2026–2027 school year for all versions of Grades 6–8 OpenSciEd. The updates address feedback from Louisiana educators after years of implementation and will be released on a rolling basis. Updates will appear on the implementation guides for each version and grade level on the [K–12 Science Planning Page](#).

Priority guidance will be available this summer as follows:

- By June, Grade 7 updated scope and sequence and Louisiana-specific suggestions for Units 1 & 2

- By July, Grade 6 updated scope and sequence and Louisiana-specific suggestions for Unit 2 (no changes for Unit 1)

The LDOE will host informational webinars in the summer to provide further explanation of this guidance. Educators and leaders may choose to attend one of the following webinars:

Webinar Option 1

Webinar Date and Time: July 31 at 9 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95854180792>

Webinar Phone Number: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID#: 958 5418 0792

Webinar Option 2

Webinar Date and Time: August 3 at 2:30 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95854180792>

Webinar Phone Number: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID#: 958 5418 0792

Webinar Option 3

Webinar Date and Time: August 5 at 3:30 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95854180792>

Webinar Phone Number: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID#: 958 5418 0792

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

K–12 Science Summer Professional Learning Registration Deadline Extended

To support school and system leaders in planning coherent and sustainable structures to improve science teaching and learning, the LDOE is hosting in-person science professional learning opportunities this summer for [K–12 science educators](#) and [K–12 science leaders](#) at no registration cost to systems.

Leader Session Dates and Locations:

- July 13 and July 27 in Baton Rouge
- July 22 in Ruston

[Registration](#) closes **May 28**.

Educator Session Dates and Locations:

- July 14 and July 28 in Baton Rouge
- July 23 in Ruston

[Registration](#) closes **May 28**.

Systems will be responsible for additional costs, including stipends, travel, meals, etc. Seating is limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

OpenSciEd Biology Guidance for 2026–2027

The LDOE is developing new guidance for the 2026–2027 school year for all versions of OpenSciEd Biology. The Louisiana-specific recommendations address feedback from Louisiana educators after years of implementation. This guidance for B.3 will be released in July and will appear on the implementation

guides for each version on the [K–12 Science Planning Page](#). Additional guidance will be released on a rolling basis during the 2026–2027 school year.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STEM RESOURCES

Computer Science Teacher Leader Advisor Applications - NOW OPEN until May 31

Highly motivated Computer Science [Teacher Leader Advisors](#) (TLAs) drive the continued implementation of [K–12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science](#). Computer Science TLAs develop high-quality teacher resources and deliver training, connecting academic standards with daily instruction. This paid opportunity allows educators to extend their impact beyond the classroom. [Applications](#) will close **May 31**. Educators do not need to hold a formal school-site leadership role to apply.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Final Cohort for the Energize Project: Computer Science Preparation for Grades 6–12 Teachers

The [Energize Project](#) provides Grades 6–12 teachers with 40 hours of no-cost Praxis (5652) Computer Science exam preparation. Join the final, in-person cohort for intensive training from June 1–4. Experienced CS teachers should [apply](#) by **May 15**.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Computer Science Implementation Frameworks

Grades 3–5 educators interested in integrating computer science into math and science lessons are encouraged to explore the [Computer Science Implementation Frameworks](#). Use these roadmaps to embed computational thinking directly into daily lessons and leverage computer science tools to model inquiry and visualize complex concepts.

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. The training prepares K–5 teachers to integrate computer science education experiences into existing instruction. The in-person summer cohort offers a final opportunity to participate. Act now and register using the [Ignite Initiative website](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

STEM Pathways Summer Training Opportunities

Summer training opportunities from approved [STEM Pathways](#) providers are listed in the [2026 Fast Forward Training Catalog](#). These trainings prepare educators to teach STEM Pathways courses in the 2026–2027 school year. Check the catalog regularly for new training sessions as providers finalize summer schedules or add additional sessions.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

Department Names Overall Honorees for Award Programs

On April 15, all [School Support, Health Provider, and Physical Activity Award](#) honorees were formally recognized at the **Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) meeting**, followed by a special celebration at the **Old State Capitol** sponsored by Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana (A+PEL).

During the event, [Richard Aaron Spring](#), a paraprofessional at Creekside Junior High in St. Tammany Parish, was named the **2026 Louisiana Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year**, and [Lacie Thomas Fontenot](#), a speech-language therapist with **Livingston Parish Public Schools**, was named the **2026 Louisiana School Health Service Provider of the Year**.

Congratulations to these outstanding educator stakeholders!

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
Educational Leader Licensure Policy Update	believeandprepare@la.gov
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Graduation Requirements	highschoolacademics@la.gov
Instructional Support and Resources	classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov
Jump Start	jumpstart@la.gov
Literacy	louisianaliteracy@la.gov
Math	math@la.gov
PD Vendor Guide	louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov
Pupil Progression Plan	ppp@la.gov
Registration for the Teacher Leader Summit	ldoeevents@la.gov
Social Studies	socialstudies@la.gov
STEM	STEM@la.gov
Teacher Certification	certification@la.gov
Teacher Leaders and Teacher Leader Advisors	classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov