



Teacher Leader Newsletter



August 2024



Welcome back, teacher leaders! I am Dr. Jenna Chiasson, Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, and I am excited to kick off this school year with you. As a former teacher and teacher leader, I know how much work each of you have done in preparation for the first day of school. There is no better feeling than opening to a fresh school year of new possibilities!

Earlier this summer we held the [12th Annual Teacher Leader Summit](#), where we celebrated Leading the Next Level. Teacher Leader Summit 2024 focused on our ability to lead the next level of our Vision for Success. This was a great opportunity for us to celebrate the phenomenal teacher leaders and gain additional knowledge we are bringing into this school year.

We are committed to supporting teachers and working together to address the needs of students, classrooms, and schools throughout the state. We are thrilled to announce that the Louisiana Department of Education has new resources available to support teachers. A comprehensive set of [Numeracy Professional Learning](#) courses for K-12 math educators, including the training mandated by [Act 260](#) (2023), are now available. We are also pleased to introduce the new [ELA Guidebooks 6-8 \(2024\)](#). We are excited to see how these resources will empower educators to enhance student learning and achieve educational excellence.

This year also brings the launch of LEADS, the Louisiana Educator Advancement and Development System, a new educator evaluation system. This new system brings multiple improvements to state-wide evaluation including practices grounded in evidence, a more fair and transparent process, and stronger connections between evaluation and professional learning. One of the key features of the LEADS program is the newly customized approach to observations and feedback. This adjustment will allow us to identify our most effective educators and reward them with fewer observations, while freeing up leaders to spend more time supporting those who are new to the profession or struggling to ensure their success. This has been a significant area of concern for educators and we are excited to address it. Most importantly, this system was designed very intentionally to foster growth in educators. I have seen and experienced firsthand the power of a strong evaluation system in moving teacher practices. Educators deserve to be professionally fed by trained observers and coaches with a strong tool that keeps us constantly seeking to be better, to do better.

I appreciate the work you do each and every day to serve the students of our state. I hope you all have a wonderful school year!

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LEADS

Nearly three years ago, the LDOE surveyed over 8,000 teachers and school leaders on how to improve the state's educator evaluation system. Using that feedback, the newly redesigned Louisiana's Educator Advancement and Development System (LEADS) was created to address the most pressing concerns and desires of our education community. Key elements of the LEADS system include:

- Creating a more customized approach to follow-up coaching in which effective educators are rewarded with fewer observations and educators new to the profession or those struggling can receive the immediate instructional support they need
- Offering more useful, timely, and actionable feedback
- Connecting learning opportunities directly to specific measures found on educator evaluations
- Providing administrators additional time to spend with educators most in need
- Streamlining evaluations and promoting career advancement

In the 2023-2024 school year, the LEADS program was piloted at 16 schools across the state and the feedback of those participating educators was used to make additional improvements. Now, as we enter our final learning year, we will again look to the education community to help us finalize the program prior to the 2025-2026 launch.

Additional information can be found in the [LEADS library](#) on the LDOE website. Interested parties are also encouraged to [sign up](#) for the dedicated LEADS teacher newsletter in order to receive regular program updates, learning tools, and to connect with additional support, as needed.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

LITERACY

Third Grade Promotion Act Guidance

Guidance is now available for [Third Grade Promotion](#) in the Literacy Library. It is important to include families in communication regarding Act 422. The [Third Grade Promotion Flier](#) and the [Third Grade Promotion Family Letter](#) should be sent home with the beginning of the year paperwork. The family letter requires a parent's signature

and ensures documentation that third-grade families in traditional public schools were notified of the new Third Grade Promotion Act regarding literacy.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Reading and English ACT Series Launch in the Literacy Library

The literacy division has launched a four-session series for ACT English and Reading. The slide decks and recordings can be found in the [Literacy Library](#).

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Steve Carter Tutoring Program

The Steve Carter Literacy Program provides \$1,500 vouchers to families of eligible K-12 public school students per school year. The digital vouchers can be used to purchase high-quality literacy and math tutoring to be held after school hours, in-person or virtually. Families will apply through the [Steve Carter Tutoring parent portal](#) and, if approved, will select an approved tutoring provider.

Please inform families of the Steve Carter Tutoring Program during back-to-school events using the [Parent Flyer](#) and by directing families to the LDOE Tutoring Initiative landing page ([Tutor.La.Gov](#)), where additional information can be found. PLEASE NOTE: School administrators should be prepared to provide families with their child's 10-digit Louisiana Student ID (LASID) number, which will be required in order to complete the Steve Carter Tutoring application.

If you would like to receive ongoing updates about the Louisiana Tutoring Initiative, [please sign up for our newsletter](#).

Please contact tutoring@la.gov with questions.

SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

Best Instructional Practices to Support Students with Disabilities in Classrooms

Congratulations to educators and leaders for the hard work resulting in continued growth for students with disabilities on LEAP assessments for the third year in a row. The LDOE remains committed to supporting the implementation of the [Special Education Playbook](#) and its adoption of three best instructional practices (1) a focus on high-quality core instruction and access, (2) extra time to learn/intervention, and (3) content strong educators providing core instruction and intervention.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Free Science of Reading Modules Extended

The LDOE has extended free access to the [Science of Reading Modules](#) through the 2024-2025 school year for educators in grades 4-8, special educators, interventionists, and reading specialists. Educators can still register to access the five teacher-friendly modules to gain knowledge and skills for supporting reading instruction in intermediate and middle school classrooms.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Webinar Series - Developing Strong Literacy Skills in Grades 4-8

The LDOE has partnered with Public Consulting Group to offer a free, four-part webinar series on developing strong literacy skills in grades 4-8. The first webinar will discuss foundational research supporting the science of reading, provide an overview of five progressive, online modules, and provide time for questions.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** September 18 at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82349718798>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 301-715-8592
- **Meeting ID#:** 82349718798

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2024)

The [ELA Guidebooks 6-8 \(2024\) units](#) for grade 8, Persuasion and Paving the Way, will be available on the [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#) this fall. The Persuasion unit will be available in August and the Paving the Way unit will be posted in early October. The texts are available through American Reading Company and Unit Readers will be available from [XanEdu](#) in the coming weeks.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks 3.0 (2018) Let's Set the Context Videos

The Let's Set the Context videos for the grades 3-8 ELA Guidebooks 3.0 (2018) units are now available in the Let's Set the Context folder within each unit on [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#). These videos provide students with background information, allowing students to engage with the texts within their unit.

As a reminder, the open-access version of the ELA Guidebooks 3.0 (2018) curriculum is only available on the [Louisiana Curriculum Hub site](#).

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Math Website Updates

In preparation for the transition to the new Louisiana Department of Education website, all math resources have moved to the [Louisiana Math](#) site. K-12 Math Planning has been archived.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Math Leader Toolkit

The [Math Leader Toolkit](#) was developed to support math teachers and leaders in their transition to the [Louisiana Educator Advancement Development System \(LEADS\)](#). The math team at the Louisiana Department of Education collaborated with NIET to create this toolkit of resources to build connections to the new LEADS rubric while keeping high-quality instructional materials, student, and teacher needs at the forefront.

The [Math Leader Toolkit](#) is comprised of:

- the **Student Work Analysis Process** to aid teachers in using student work to identify needs and reflect on instructional practices,
- the **Student Work Analysis Coaching Tool** to aid instructional coaches, master teachers, and other instructional support staff in supporting classroom teachers through the Student Work Analysis process,
- the **Content Specific Framework for Leaders** to aid administrators in supporting coaches, instructional support staff, and teachers through the Student Work Analysis Process and Coaching Tools, and
- the **Acceleration Program Appraisal** to reflect on current math programming in all contexts to identify and adjust for misalignments.

Consider adding these tools to your planning and collaboration processes this school year.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Monthly Office Hours to Support Implementation of OpenSciEd High School Materials

To further support learning acceleration in high school science, the LDOE is hosting monthly office hours to support teachers implementing the OpenSciEd High School materials. Office hours take place on the second Wednesday of each month from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and serve as an open forum for teachers to ask questions related to implementation. Participating biology, chemistry, and physics teachers may join monthly using the information below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Second Wednesday of each month at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98654189894>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 986 5418 9894
- **Meeting Passcode:** 345192

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Monthly High School Science Pilot Support for Leaders

The LDOE welcomes science leaders to join monthly office hours designed specifically for schools and systems implementing OpenSciEd in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics for the 2024-2025 school year. The monthly call takes place on the second Wednesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. These optional, drop-in sessions are designed to support science system- and school-level leaders with all aspects of OpenSciEd implementation, including but not limited to:

- Updates to pilot resources
- Professional learning opportunities
- Materials purchasing

A summary of updates is sent to participants following the call.

Please contact STEM@la.gov to be added to the monthly call and with questions.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STEM RESOURCES

Computer Science Teacher Leader Advisor Applications - Open Now

Our Computer Science [Teacher Leader Advisors](#) (TLAs) are highly motivated educators who work alongside the LDOE team to support the mission and vision of the Louisiana Department of Education. Computer Science TLAs will serve an essential role in supporting the implementation of the upcoming K-12 Computer Science Standards by creating resources for teachers, engaging in work that allows them to develop their understanding of curricula, and providing training for teachers. Teacher Leader Advisors are paid for the work they complete, and the experience allows educators to expand their positive impact beyond the classroom. [Applications](#) for the 2024-2025 Computer Science Teacher Leader Advisors opened **August 12** and will close on **August 30**. Educators are not required to be school-site teacher leaders to apply.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

EDTECH RESOURCES

Back to School LMS Support

Begin the new school year with confidence in your edtech tools. Explore these essential resources to make the most of your Learning Management System (LMS).

LMS back-to-school resources include:

- [Back to School - Microsoft Teams](#),
- [Back to School - Preparing Your Canvas Course](#), and
- [Back to School - Preparing Your Google Classroom](#).

Additional resources can be found on the [LDOE Digital Learning website](#).

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Digital Citizenship Support

As educators prepare for the new school year, consider incorporating digital citizenship into back-to-school activities. Establishing a foundation of safe and responsible online practices sets the stage for a successful and secure learning experience for all students.

Digital citizenship resources include:

- [Digital Citizenship - Cybersecurity for Students](#): Equip students with essential skills to protect themselves online;
- [Digital Citizenship - Elementary Student Guide](#): Introduce young learners to responsible digital practices;
- [Digital Citizenship - Secondary Student Guide](#): Guide older students in navigating the complexities of online life;
- [Digital Citizenship - Parent Guide](#): Empower parents to support their children's digital learning journey;
- [Digital Citizenship - Teacher Guide](#): Provide educators with strategies and activities to foster digital citizenship in the classroom; and
- [AI Teacher and Admin Guide](#): Support teachers and leaders with an introduction to using AI in a school setting.

By integrating these resources, teachers ensure that students understand the importance of online safety, etiquette, and responsible use of technology. This foundation will benefit them throughout the school year and beyond.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Kami Webinar Recordings

The LDOE hosted a Kami summer webinar series and regional face-to-face trainings to support the implementation of Kami statewide. As announced last year, all K-12 public and charter school teachers and students have access to Kami's premium features at no cost for the 2024-2025 school year.

The [Kami Webinar Series recordings and slides](#) can be found on the [LDOE Digital Learning web page](#).

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Educational Leadership Alternative Pathway 4 LDOE Training

The Educational Leadership (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, candidates must complete training provided by the LDOE and have passed either the School Leadership Licensure Assessment or the Louisiana Leadership Assessment Series. For the 2024-2025 academic year, interested applicants should [complete the application](#).

The pathway requirements state that candidates must be provided a mentor to support their induction and transition into the Educational Leadership role. The LDOE is currently seeking mentors to support these candidates. Any current school/system leaders interested in serving as a mentor for novice principals are encouraged to complete the [mentor application](#) by **October 25**.

Please contact Louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

CERTIFICATION RESOURCES

Educator Certification Resources and Updates to Online Certification Portal

[Certification Bulletin, Bulletin 746](#) and the [Online Teacher Certification Portal, Teach LA Live!](#) Support educators in maintaining their certification.

The online certification portal allows educators to submit certification applications (where allowed in policy), or connect with a Certification Specialist to [ask questions](#). Current application processing time is approximately 15-25 business days. Question responses are provided via email in approximately 3-5 business days. The portal question and application system will be redesigned and implemented in phases. Phase 1 includes the updating of the question submission system. The testing window occurred this summer and full implementation is set for August. End users will need a [MyLa account](#) to submit questions in the new system.

Please contact certification@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

The LDOE Names State-Level Honorees for Award Programs

On the evening of July 27, the LDOE — in partnership with [Dream Teachers](#) — celebrated excellence in education at the *18th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Awards Gala*, which was held at the World War II Museum in New Orleans. During the event, the [2025 State Elementary, Middle and High School Teacher and Principal of the Year honorees](#), the [2025 New Teacher of the Year](#), and the [2025 Early Childhood Leader of the Year and the 2025 Early Childhood Teacher of the Year](#) were announced.

In addition, the [New Teacher of the Year Finalists](#), [Early Childhood Teacher and Leader Finalists](#), [Milken Educator Award](#) recipients, [Louisiana’s Public Interest Fellowship recipient](#), and the [Teacher and Principal of the Year Semifinalists and Finalists](#) were honored.

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

2024 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Honorees from Louisiana

The LDOE is excited to announce that Eva Legard Center for Coastal and Environmental Studies and Park Forest Middle Creative Sciences and Arts Magnet School were recognized as a 2024 [U. S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools](#). Across the country, 41 schools, 10 districts, three postsecondary institutions, and one early learning center are being honored for their innovative efforts to reduce impact and costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure sustainability. Congratulations to these outstanding Louisiana schools! Applications for 2024-2025 will be available in September.

Please contact environmentaleducation@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
Louisiana Educator Advancement Development System (LEADS)	leads@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
Professional Learning Partner Guide	louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov
Pupil Progressions	ppp@la.gov
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