



Teacher Leader Newsletter



August 2026



As we begin a new school year, we celebrate the progress Louisiana educators have achieved together. Thanks to your commitment to excellent instruction, students earned the [highest overall Mastery+ rate](#) in state history. Louisiana now ranks first in reading growth, second in mathematics growth, and is the only state to surpass pre-pandemic achievement levels in both subjects. K-3 reading proficiency also increased 16.5 percentage points, with two-thirds of students reading on or above grade level, demonstrating that consistent Science of Reading instruction and targeted student support are making a meaningful difference across Louisiana.

This year's work builds on that strong foundation. The adoption of Louisiana's updated student standards for [English language arts](#) (ELA) and [mathematics](#) reflects our commitment to ensuring every student is prepared for success beyond the classroom. These standards provide greater clarity while maintaining the rigor that has become a hallmark of Louisiana's instructional vision. Combined with [high-quality instructional materials \(HQIM\)](#), they equip educators with the tools needed to deliver engaging, standards-aligned instruction every day.

This summer, over 7,400 educators came together for the [2026 Teacher Leader Summit](#) to deepen their content knowledge, share best practices, and prepare for another successful year. This school year, educators have an opportunity to help students move beyond simply participating in instruction to taking greater ownership of their learning. Whether you are introducing new standards, implementing HQIM, engaging in ongoing professional learning, coaching colleagues, or leveraging instructional technology, each effort contributes to the same goal: creating meaningful, student-centered learning experiences. As you continue to grow in your practice, you create more opportunities for students to ask questions, make decisions, persevere through challenges, and see themselves as confident, capable learners.

Thank you for your leadership, your expertise, and your unwavering dedication to Louisiana's students. Together, we will continue building on our success by strengthening instruction, empowering educators, and creating brighter futures for every learner.

Warmly,

Dr. Jenna Chiasson

Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

In This Issue

- [Numeracy Resources](#)
- [Literacy Resources](#)
- [ELA Resources](#)
- [Social Studies Resources](#)
- [Science Resources](#)
- [Computer Science and STEM Resources](#)
- [EdTech Resources](#)
- [Educator Recognition](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

NUMERACY RESOURCES

Teacher Collaboration Facilitator Registration

Registration is now open for the [Literacy and Numeracy Teacher Collaboration Facilitator Training](#). This professional learning opportunity is designed to strengthen the knowledge and skills of school-based Teacher Collaboration Facilitators in literacy and numeracy. Participants will deepen understanding of the High-Quality Professional Learning (HQPL) Cycle and learn practical strategies for leading effective teacher collaboration to support strong instructional planning and improved student outcomes.

Facilitators serving in the funded role have already been registered and should **not** register using the provided links. Additional seats are available for school system and school leaders who wish to attend the regional trainings. Registration information, regional training dates, and additional details are available in the [Teacher Collaboration Facilitator Training](#) document.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Support for Numeracy Screener Response

The LDOE is excited to announce the release of the [K-3 Numeracy Screener Response Toolkit](#). This suite of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) aligned resources is designed to help educators analyze screener data and make proactive, targeted instructional decisions.

The toolkit includes

- Response Roadmaps: Grade-specific guides to help teachers analyze students' responses, identify targeted instructional needs, and plan responses using HQIM.
- Progress Monitoring Trackers and Materials: Tools for organizing data, adjusting scaffolds, and tracking student progress.

To support educators in using these resources effectively, the LDOE will host a monthly webinar series. The first webinar is August 20 at 10 a.m.

Webinar Date and Time: August 20 at 10 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/6158352036?pwd=nzF8kkDrt5JYpBoQEYVbX8RENPyD.1>

Webinar Phone Number: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 615 835 2036

Passcode: 591448

Visit the LDOE website [Numeracy Screener](#) page to explore the new resources.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Standards Resources

The Standards Resource Guides, formerly known as the Teacher Companion Documents, for Grades K-6, Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II are now available on the [Louisiana Math](#) page under the Standards Resource Guides

section. These guides are designed to support educators in interpreting and implementing the updated mathematics standards by providing additional guidance and resources for instruction.

The [2025 Louisiana Student Standards for Mathematics](#) (LSSM), along with the [K-12 LSSM Crosswalk](#), are also available in the Standards section of the [Louisiana Math](#) page.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Math Standards Institutes Asynchronous Module for Leaders Now Available

The Mathematics Standards Institutes – Leader Training is now available in the [Louisiana Professional Learning Platform](#) to support school and school system leaders as they prepare for implementation of the updated mathematics standards. This self-paced course provides on-demand professional learning through asynchronous modules and includes resources, key information, and implementation guidance that leaders can use to support teacher learning and facilitate conversations within their schools and school systems.

- Course Codes - Standards Institutes - Leader Training
 - **A72E57U7**

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Resources for Numeracy Coaches

The On-Demand Numeracy Coach Resources Canopy Course in the [Louisiana Professional Learning Platform](#) supports Numeracy Coaches as they engage with teachers. This resource provides asynchronous learning modules for on-demand professional learning and includes guidance documents that coaches can use to guide their work and share with school system and school leaders.

- Course Codes - On-Demand Numeracy Coach Resources
 - **7C80N774**

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Supporting Strong Math Instruction with Zearn

The LDOE is committed to ensuring every student has access to high-quality, grade-level math instruction aligned to the [K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Mathematics](#). In preparation for the year ahead, teacher leaders are encouraged to watch a [brief informational video](#) showing how [Zearn Math](#) digital lessons and paper-and-pencil student notes work alongside state-approved high-quality instructional materials to support grade-level math learning throughout the year.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

LITERACY RESOURCES

K-8 School Literacy Plans Due September 1

The updated [Local Literacy Plan template](#) can be found in the [Literacy Library](#) under [Literacy Goals](#). This template reflects changes required by [Act 964 \(2026\)](#) for Grades 4-8 literacy plans as well as the inclusion of guidance from the [Tiered Pathways for Literacy Support](#) (TPLS).

School systems should submit literacy plans for schools in their systems by **September 1, 2026**, using the [K-8 School Literacy Plan Submission Form](#). Plans must also be posted on school websites by September 1, 2026.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

K-2 Skills Unit and Lesson Preparation Webinar

The K-2 Skills Unit and Lesson Preparation webinars provide a foundational understanding of healthy Tier 1 core instruction using the [Tiered Pathways for Literacy Support](#) (TPLS) framework. During the K-2 Skills Unit Preparation webinar, participants will trace the progression of literacy skills through unit and lesson preparation by internalizing

and implementing the [K-2 Skills Unit Preparation Protocol](#). In the K-2 Skills Lesson Preparation webinar, participants will trace how foundational literacy skills are taught, reinforced, and applied within a lesson by internalizing and implementing the two-phase [K-2 Skills Lesson Preparation Protocol](#) to support aligned, responsive instruction.

K-2 Skills Unit Preparation

Webinar Date and Time: August 11 from 8 to 11 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/96711547707?pwd=HOLqRFZykyDQ5St7QbJsi2bWRdpUKa.1>

Webinar Phone Number: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 967 1154 7707

Passcode: 786743

K-2 Skills Lesson Preparation (Phase One)

Webinar Date and Time: August 25 from 8 to 10 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93240867644?pwd=WKkeQrQFN631linBMiwQFMEwo83rpd.1>

Webinar Phone Number: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 932 4086 7644

Passcode: 896249

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

3-12 ELA Knowledge Unit and Lesson Preparation

The 3-12 ELA Knowledge Unit and Lesson Preparation sessions provide a foundational understanding of healthy Tier 1 core instruction utilizing the [Tiered Pathways for Literacy Support](#) (TPLS) framework. In the 3-12 ELA Knowledge Unit Preparation webinar, participants will trace the progression of knowledge and skills through instruction and assessment by internalizing and implementing the [3-12 ELA Knowledge Unit Preparation Protocol](#). In the 3-12 ELA Knowledge Lesson Preparation webinar, participants will internalize and implement Phase One of the [ELA Lesson Preparation Protocol](#) to plan for effective instruction by determining the purpose of lesson activities and questions within HQIM to develop intentional lesson objectives, identifying student exemplars, and selecting effective instructional approaches to support lesson outcomes.

3-12 ELA Knowledge Unit Preparation

Webinar Date and Time: August 11 from 12 to 3 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98068424158?pwd=vXHqfU1oWuVoKM0THG7YiHa3zUT3U8.1>

Webinar Phone Number: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 980 6842 4158

Passcode: 980273

3-12 ELA Knowledge Lesson Preparation (Phase One)

Webinar Date and Time: August 25 from 12 to 2 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95981648893?pwd=8xNaFgO0xrZbYXO8FeWmAWDhktbdr.1>

Webinar Phone Number: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 959 8164 8893

Passcode: 085897

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Updates: Grade 3 Foundational Skills

The LDOE is updating all ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) grade 3 units to include direct and explicit instruction to support students' foundational skills development. The units, [The Stories Julian Tells](#) and [Cajun Folktales](#), now include Words in Practice activities aligned with the [Louisiana Student Standards for English Language Arts](#). The LDOE will release the updated remaining Grade 3 units this fall.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Social Studies Office Hours

To answer questions and provide technical assistance with [Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Social Studies Curriculum](#), [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#), and [Land of Liberty: The History of the United States](#), the LDOE will hold social studies office hours the first Wednesday of each month from 3:15 to 4 p.m.

Webinar Date and Time: September 2 at 3:15 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92792266713?pwd=fYN4HZpVkc9l8P8c5hcdvRwG1lMHyT.1>

Webinar Phone Number: 1-470-250-9358

Meeting ID: 927 9226 6713

Meeting Passcode: 063740

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

New U.S. History Resource Available

The LDOE has released a new, valuable resource to support high-quality instruction in U.S. history classrooms. The [Land of Liberty Standards Alignment Document](#) tracks when standards are addressed during instruction, ensuring comprehensive coverage of each content standard. During collaborative planning sessions, educators should use the [Unit Study Tool](#).

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies Resources to Start the New School Year

The LDOE recommends the following resources to support and empower educators in successfully planning and implementing engaging social studies instruction using high-quality instructional materials. Start the school year off right with these helpful social studies resources:

- [Unit Study Tool](#)
- [Lesson Study Protocol](#)
- [Bayou Bridges Alternate Pacing Guides](#) (listed under Grades 3-8 document lists)
- [Foundations of Freedom Detailed Pacing Guide Samples](#) (listed under Foundations of Freedom Teacher Materials document lists)

These resources are available on the [Bayou Bridges](#), [Foundations of Freedom](#), and [Land of Liberty](#) web pages.

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

New Science Instructional Planning Resources Available

The LDOE released new Science Instructional Planning Resources to support educators and leaders in planning for high-quality science instruction. These resources are designed to strengthen curriculum implementation by supporting unit internalization and lesson preparation with high-quality instructional materials.

New resources include:

- [Science Unit Study Tool](#)
- [Science Lesson Preparation Protocol](#)

All resources are available on the [K-12 Science Planning Page](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Updated Science Implementation Resources

Updated science implementation resources are now available on the [K-12 Science Planning page](#). The resources are designed to support educators and leaders in implementing high-quality science instructional materials. The updated Implementation Guides for Amplify and OpenSciEd incorporate feedback from Louisiana educators and provide Louisiana-specific guidance to strengthen curriculum implementation across priority units.

Updated resources include:

- Amplify Grades 6–8
- OpenSciEd Grades 6 and 7 (all versions)
- OpenSciEd Biology (all versions)

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Science Leader Curriculum Focus Groups

The LDOE is offering [Science Leader Curriculum Focus Groups](#) for the 2026–2027 school year to support school and system leaders in strengthening curriculum implementation. Through this year-long collaboration, participants will engage in coaching support, instructional problem-solving, curriculum-specific collaboration, and guided learning walks to strengthen high-quality science instruction aligned to the [Louisiana Educator Rubric \(LER\)](#).

The focus groups include:

- Curriculum-specific webinars
- Targeted support sessions
- Guided learning walks
- Collaborative networking with science leaders across Louisiana

[Register](#) now to reserve your seat.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

2026 LATM & LSTA Joint Conference

The Louisiana Association for Teachers of Mathematics (LATM) and the Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA) will host their 2026 conference on **November 12–13** at the Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge. This conference is an excellent opportunity to learn through inspiring educational sessions led by Louisiana leaders in math and science education, network with colleagues from around the state, exchange ideas, and gain additional skills and techniques to implement in your classroom.

Registration is available on the [LSTA website](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STEM RESOURCES

Now Available! Computer Science and STEM Micro-Credential Training Programs for K-5 and 6-12 Teachers

In partnership with Louisiana Tech University, the LDOE is excited to offer two micro-credential opportunities for the 2026–2027 school year. Grade 6-12 teachers may utilize the newest micro-credential program leading toward a Computer Science certification add-on. Additionally, the micro-credential program remains available for K-5 educators seeking a computer science and STEM certification add-on. Visit the [Computer Science and STEM Micro-Credential Training Programs](#) document for full details.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDTECH RESOURCES

AI Guidance for Educators

The LDOE has developed two resources designed to help educators effectively and responsibly integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) into their classrooms: The [C.R.E.A.T.E. Framework for Effective AI Prompting](#) and [Strategic AI Integration: A Pre-Work Checklist for Educators](#).

The [C.R.E.A.T.E. Framework](#) offers a structured approach to designing effective AI prompts. This framework guides educators in crafting prompts by considering the following elements: **C**haracter, **R**equest, **E**xamples, **A**dditions, **T**ype of Output, and **E**xtras.

Before using any AI tool, educators are encouraged to review [Strategic AI Integration: A Pre-Work Checklist for Educators](#). The checklist emphasizes the importance of prioritizing intellectual preparation to maintain the integrity of high-quality instructional materials. Key steps in this pre-work include defining a clear purpose and need, understanding existing HQIM, identifying relevant student learning goals, engaging in lesson internalization, considering ethical implications and safety, planning prompts strategically, recognizing AI as a supportive tool, establishing a plan for human oversight and review, and ensuring alignment with educational objectives.

For additional EdTech resources, please visit our [Digital Learning webpage](#).

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

LACUE 2026 Annual Conference

Mark your calendars! The 2026 Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators (LACUE) Annual Conference will be held **December 1–3, 2026**, in Baton Rouge at the Raising Cane's River Center. Registration and the Call for Proposals are now open! Don't miss this opportunity to connect with educators from across Louisiana, explore innovative educational technology practices, and share your expertise by submitting a session proposal. Visit the [LACUE conference website](#) for details and to register.

Please contact lacue@lacue.org with questions.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

Department Names State-Level Honorees for Award Programs

On July 25, the LDOE, in partnership with [Dream Teachers](#), hosted the *20th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Awards Gala* at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. The evening honored outstanding educators from across the state and celebrated their dedication to students, schools, and communities.

During the event, the LDOE announced the overall and division-level honorees for the [2027 Teacher and Principal of the Year](#), as well as the [2027 New Teacher of the Year](#) and the [2027 Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year](#).

Also recognized were the [New Teacher of the Year finalists](#), [Early Childhood Teacher and Leader finalists](#), [Milken Educator Award recipient](#), [Louisiana's Public Interest Fellow](#), [2026 National Recognizing Inspiring School Employees \(RISE\) Award Honoree](#), and the [Teacher and Principal of the Year semifinalists and finalists](#).

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Seeking Nominations for School Support Employees and Health Providers

The Louisiana Department of Education is currently seeking nominations for two recognition programs, the Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year and the School Health Service Provider of the Year.

The [nomination portal](#) is now open and will close on **September 11**.

The LDOE invites teachers, principals, school system leaders, colleagues, families, students, and community members to nominate exceptional individuals whose dedication, expertise, and service make a meaningful difference for students, schools, and communities. Multiple nominations are welcome, and self-nominations are accepted.

After the portal closes, nomination information will be shared with local school systems for consideration for selecting school system nominees for the state recognition process.

Please share this opportunity with your networks and encourage others to nominate outstanding school support employees and school health providers who help Louisiana students thrive. Learn more on the [Awards](#) page.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

CONTACT US

For questions related to...	Contact:
Advanced Placement (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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