



Teacher Leader Newsletter



September 2026

Laura Gautreaux



Hello! I'm Laura Gautreaux, a grade 6 science and social studies teacher at Lake Arthur Elementary School in Jefferson Davis Parish. I was inspired to become a Teacher Leader Advisor (TLA) because I am passionate about planning engaging social studies instruction using the historical thinking process to make student learning meaningful. I enjoy collaborating with other educators and sharing ideas that support social studies students across Louisiana.

One of the most fulfilling parts of being a TLA is seeing how [Louisiana's Freedom Framework Social Studies Student Standards](#) continue to move students beyond simply remembering facts to using content knowledge, evidence, and historical thinking skills to develop claims and explain their thinking using evidence.

Because content and skills standards are intertwined, students in my classroom have become more confident using the reasoning processes of causation, comparison, and continuity and change. As students ask questions, examine sources, and make connections across the unit while answering the Performance Task Prompt, Framing Question, and supporting questions, they develop deeper understanding and become more confident in explaining their thinking with evidence.

I am especially excited about the [Performance Task Evidence Catcher](#). This tool supports educators in intentionally planning supporting questions, connecting each lesson to the Framing Question and the Performance Task throughout the unit, as well as anticipating and responding to student thinking within HQIM. The Performance Task Evidence Catcher also provides students with a clear purpose for learning and a structured place to collect and record evidence during guided readings, providing students with meaningful opportunities to demonstrate their engagement, reasoning, understanding, and growth throughout the instructional process. Instead of waiting until the end of the unit to determine what they know, students are empowered to continuously build their knowledge, track their thinking, and gather meaningful evidence. This approach equips students to take ownership of their learning while developing the skills they need to construct thoughtful, evidence-based responses to the Performance Task.

I am thrilled to continue serving as a TLA and collaborating with educators across Louisiana. I am excited about the resources available on the [Instructional Support](#) page and how they can support all educators to plan intentionally, make meaningful connections across lessons, and create engaging, accessible learning experiences for all students.

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NUMERACY RESOURCES

2025–2026 Outstanding Zearn Implementation

Math teachers across the state were celebrated in early August with Zearn lapel pins in recognition of their outstanding Zearn implementation during the 2025–2026 school year. Pins were sent to teachers in schools with more than 50% of students who completed 60 or more Zearn lessons last year. The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is thrilled to celebrate these educators from Lafourche, Tangipahoa, Washington, and St. Charles Parishes who represent just a few of the over 250 schools recognized.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.



Support for Numeracy Screener Response

As teachers use K-3 Numeracy Screener results to inform instruction, the LDOE encourages teachers to explore the [K-3 Numeracy Screener Response Toolkit](#). This collection of HQIM-aligned resources is designed to support teachers in using the screener results to plan and take purposeful action.

The toolkit includes the following resources:

- Response Roadmaps: Grade-specific guidance to help teachers make informed instructional decisions based on screener results
- Progress Monitoring Trackers and Tools: Ready-to-use materials to help teachers monitor student progress, gather evidence of learning, and plan instructional next steps

The LDOE will host a monthly webinar series that provides ongoing support for putting these resources into practice. Each session builds understanding of the toolkit and highlights practical ways to use the resources while maintaining a focus on core instruction. The next webinar will take place on September 17 at 10 a.m.

Webinar Date and Time: September 17 at 10 a.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/6158352036?pwd=nzF8kkDrt5JYpBoQEpAYVbX8RENPyD.1>

Webinar Phone Number: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID#: 615 835 2036

Meeting Passcode: 591448

Visit the LDOE [Numeracy Screener](#) page to access and explore all available resources. Resources will be updated ahead of each administration window.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Math Night Activities

Looking for engaging activities to use during your next Math Night? Don't forget about the [Math Night Activities](#) for grades K-8 available on the [Louisiana Math](#) page! These ready-to-use activities provide opportunities for students and families to explore mathematics together through hands-on, meaningful experiences.

If you are planning an upcoming Math Night or family engagement event, revisit these resources for ideas that encourage mathematical thinking, discussion, problem-solving, and fun. Explore the activities by grade level and find ways to bring families into the learning experience.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

New Resource: ELA Standards Reference Guide

The [ELA Standards Reference Guide](#), a new resource designed to support educators in implementing the Louisiana Student Standards for English Language Arts, is now available for grades K-2.

For each standard, the guide provides:

- guidance for instruction, including what the standard looks like in practice and how to scaffold it
- key terms with clear, teacher-friendly definitions
- examples, where helpful, to illustrate how a standard might show up in a lesson

While the examples included are not exhaustive, the guide gives teachers a clear, standard-by-standard

reference to support strong unit and lesson preparation.

The LDOE will update the ELA Standards Reference Guide to include grades 3-5 in September and grades 6-12 in October.

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:** October 7 at 3:15 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92792266713>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1-470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID#:** 927 9226 6713
- **Meeting Passcode:** 063740

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies Resources: Now Available

The LDOE has released several new resources to support high-quality social studies instruction across K-12 classrooms. These additional resources include:

- [Social Studies Standards Roadmaps](#), an updated [Social Studies Unit Study Tool](#), and a [Social Studies Lesson Preparation Protocol](#) to support teachers and school leaders with grade-level and vertical planning across LDOE social studies tools and content areas;
- [Grade K](#) and [Grade 1](#) Knowledge Building Cards to support Grade K and 1 teachers in making core [Bayou Bridges](#) K-1 vocabulary words visible, recurring, and interactive, through short, frequent practice across contexts; and
- [Land of Liberty Standards Alignment](#) and [Land of Liberty Unit 2 Pacing Guidance](#) documents to support U.S. History teachers in addressing standards and completing high-quality instructional material content before end-of-course testing.

Teachers are encouraged to visit the [K-12 Social Studies Planning](#), [Bayou Bridges](#), and [Land of Liberty](#) web pages to access these valuable resources.

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

United States Senate Youth Program

The LDOE is currently accepting applications to select two Louisiana student delegates for the [United States Senate Youth Program](#) and the 65th Annual Washington Week, which takes place March 6–13, 2027. This program invites high school juniors and/or seniors from across the nation to participate in a week-long experience focused on education, leadership, and public service. Student delegates will expand their understanding of the political process and strengthen their commitment to public service through meetings with national leaders. Each delegate will receive a \$12,500 scholarship upon completing all Washington Week on-site events. The [2026-2027 Louisiana Logistics Memo](#) lists eligibility requirements, school nomination and application processes, and required submission materials.

The [application](#) is open now and will close at **11:59 p.m. on October 9.**

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

Youth Legislature of Louisiana

The [Youth Legislature of Louisiana](#) offers students the chance to learn about the legislative process by participating in a mock legislative session. During this event, students debate issues alongside their peers from across the state. Participants develop valuable skills in leadership, critical thinking, public speaking, and civic engagement while gaining firsthand experience as lawmakers.

The 2027 session dates are listed below:

- Session 1: March 1–2
- Session 2: March 3–4
- Session 3: March 8–9 (early dismissal)
- Session 4: March 10–11
- Session 5: March 15–16
- Session 6: March 17–18
- Session 7: March 22–23
- Session 8: March 24–25 (early dismissal)
- Session 9: April 5–6
- Session 10: April 7–8

To learn more about the [Youth Legislature of Louisiana](#) or to apply for a 2026–2027 session, contact youthlegislatureofla@gmail.com.

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

Celebrate Freedom Week

Louisiana schools will observe Celebrate Freedom Week from September 14 to September 18. This statewide event is designed to strengthen civic understanding and promote constitutional literacy among Louisiana students.

To assist with instruction during Celebrate Freedom Week, the LDOE has provided [guidance and resources](#).

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STEM RESOURCES

Louisiana Transportation Research Center Bentley STEM Grant Opportunity

The Louisiana Transportation Research Center Bentley STEM Grant program will award grants of up to \$500 to full-time Louisiana K-12 classroom teachers to purchase STEM classroom activities and consumable materials for STEM lessons. Any STEM-discipline teacher may apply for this grant using the [online application](#). The application portal is open from **August 1 until October 2.**

Please contact LTRCOutreach@la.gov with questions.

Energize Project Praxis (5652) Computer Science Content Exam Preparation for Grades 6-12 Teachers

The [Energize Project](#) offers 40 hours of no-cost preparation to Grades 6-12 teachers for the Praxis (5652) Computer Science content exam. Formats include virtual, hybrid, and in-person, with cohorts beginning this fall. The deadline to [register](#) for the October cohort is **October 5, 2026**.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDTECH RESOURCES

LACUE Annual Conference 2026: Bridging Innovation and Education

The [Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators \(LACUE\) Annual Conference](#), “Bridging Innovation and Education,” will be held December 1–2, 2026, at the Raising Cane’s River Center in Baton Rouge. Join educators and education leaders from across Louisiana for two days of learning, collaboration, and exploration of innovative practices and technologies that are shaping teaching and learning.

Registration is open now! Louisiana educators can also join LACUE for free, making it easy to connect with a statewide community of educators committed to innovation and effective technology integration.

Please contact lacue@lacue.org with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

BESE Tuition Program for Teachers: Spring 2027 Applications Opening Soon!

The [BESE Tuition Program for Teachers](#) provides tuition funding for selected classroom teachers to enroll in courses at regionally accredited colleges or universities in Louisiana. Online applications for coursework funding for the Spring 2027 semester will open on **September 21**. Program details and a link to the application are available on the [Continuing Opportunities for Educators page](#).

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

Seeking Nominations for Excellent Educators

The LDOE is accepting nominations for the following educator recognition programs:

- Teacher and Principal of the Year
- Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year
- New Teacher of the Year (*Candidates for the New Teacher of the Year program must have less than one year of teaching experience.*)

The [nominations portal](#) closes on **September 30**. Multiple nominations, including self-nominations, are welcome. After the nomination period ends, all nomination information will be shared with school systems for consideration in their local selection process.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions about Teacher/Principal of the Year.

Please contact mentorandcontentleaders@la.gov with questions about New Teacher of the Year.

Please contact brandee.david@la.gov with questions about Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year.

CONTACT US

For questions related to...	Contact:
AP Courses and Exams	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
Educator Background Credentialing	educatorclearance@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
Literacy	louisianaliteracy@la.gov
Math	math@la.gov
Professional Learning Partner 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