



Teacher Leader Newsletter



October 2024



Greetings, Louisiana educators. I am Mrs. JaVonn W. Nicholas, Madison Parish's Instructional Technology Coordinator, and a proud Teacher Leader Advisor. With over 17 years of experience in education, I've had the opportunity to help students and instructors embrace the power of technology.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month. As we begin Cybersecurity Awareness Month, I'm excited to share my enthusiasm for empowering our students to become responsible digital citizens. In my work, I get great satisfaction in witnessing our students' journeys across the digital world with confidence and security.

Cybersecurity and digital citizenship are more than just buzzwords; they are essential skills that enable our students to defend themselves and succeed in a linked environment. Ensuring all students understand internet safety's significance is critical to their future success and well-being. The LDOE has created [resources](#) to support students in understanding the importance of being safe online and how to be better digital citizens.

As we evolve, our emphasis on cybersecurity and digital citizenship will help develop a digitally savvy and responsible generation. This month, let's energize our classrooms with teachings and activities emphasizing the need for online safety.

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SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

Dyslexia Summit

The Center for Literacy & Learning, in partnership with ALTA Louisiana and Decoding Dyslexia Louisiana, is hosting an inaugural Plain Talk About Dyslexia Summit on October 4-5 at the Baton Rouge Marriott. Experts will share insights, strategies, and innovations in the field of dyslexia. From cutting-edge research to practical applications, participants will gain invaluable tools to support individuals with dyslexia in their communities, schools, and homes. [Registration](#) is open.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with any questions.

Diverse Learners' Literacy Screening Guidance

The Louisiana mCLASS system is now open for DIBELS screening of all students in grades K-3. Keep in mind the consideration of diverse learners when assessing students. Updated guidance for these learners is available:

- Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) is allowable, based on the student's individualized needs and documentation on the student's IEP.
- Extended time should only be considered for the following students:
 - English learners as identified in EdLink 360 enrollment
 - Students who are deaf and/or hard of hearing, with fluency-based speech disorders documented on IEPs, assessed with alternative rubrics (i.e. significant cognitive disabilities), with limited verbal language skills, as documented on the IEP, that are not participating in an alternate assessment, and/or students who require braille
- For students who are deaf and/or hard of hearing, consider flexible administration options:
 - Have the speech-language pathologist or teacher of the D/HH student conduct the screening
 - Consider using an interpreter to assist with the test administration
 - Student's response modes may consist of ASL, finger spelling, AAC, visual phonics, gestures, or other modes of communication
- Students with limited verbal skills need additional ways to communicate or respond to testing items
 - Communication strategies may include pictures, communication boards, communication devices, and/or sign language or gestures
 - Teachers should work closely with the speech-language pathologist (SLP) in the school to make assessment accommodations
- Students with significant cognitive disabilities who meet eligibility criteria should participate in the [Literacy Alternate Assessment Rubric \(LAAR\)](#).

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with any questions.

English Learner Institute

The LDOE is excited to announce the upcoming English Learner Institute for EL Directors and Coordinators. The Institute will provide essential information and updates regarding English Learners. Registration is linked below:

- [October 1, 2024](#)
- [December 3, 2024](#)
- [February 4, 2025](#)
- [May 14, 2025](#)

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

Bringing the Special Education Playbook to Life: IEP Writing Workshop Series

The LDOE is working with a national partner to offer training for Individual Education Program (IEP) Teams, school administrators, and professionals who support students with disabilities to ensure supports and services align with the instructional best practices outlined in [Louisiana's Special Education Playbook for System Leaders](#). The LDOE will offer one 3-part series for elementary and one 3-part series for secondary. Each will occur from 2 p.m.-2:45 p.m.

- Elementary series - [October 9, October 24](#), and [November 7](#)
- Secondary series - [November 21, December 5](#), and [December 19](#)

Please contact diverselearnersupports@la.gov with questions.

Parents of English Learners Literacy Workshop

UMASS Global is partnering with the LDOE to provide a free four-part virtual workshop to prepare and support administrators, instructional coaches, and teachers with effective engagement strategies for parents and communities of English Learners. The virtual workshops aim to support the promotion of literacy development through home and community literacy activities to teach English Learners. The workshops will cover topics such as:

- building family literacy;
- methods for engaging families in literacy activities;
- strategies and resources to support reading development; and
- using data to inform literacy development.

The Parents as Partners in Literacy (PaPIL) Workshop Series (linked below) is scheduled from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on the following days:

- [September 25, 2024](#)
- [October 9, 2024](#)
- [October 23, 2024](#)
- [November 6, 2024](#)

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

BOY K-3 Literacy Gifted Referral Data Collection

Louisiana Statute 17:24.9 mandates districts to report the number of students identified for referral for gifted evaluation for every literacy screening administration for K-3. The following data sets will be collected for each grade level:

- The number of gifted students scoring in the above-average range on the literacy screener
- The number of non-gifted students referred for additional screening
- The number of non-gifted students referred for gifted evaluation

[BOY reporting](#) is due **October 4**.

Please contact meredith.jordan@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 that focuses on supporting the science of reading.

- **Title:** Webinar #2: Focus on Developing Accurate and Fluent Readers
- **When:** October 16 at 3 p.m.
- **Zoom link:** https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qPAmXQM1RKqts2gvHGA2Nw

Please contact diverselearnersupports@la.gov with questions.

Standards, Assessments, and Score Reports Workshops for English Learners

The LDOE is partnering with ELPA 21 to sponsor a free workshop to support educators with embedding English Language Proficiency standards into instruction, leveraging score reports from the ELP screener and summative assessments, and applying Achievement and Proficiency Level Descriptors in the classroom. This workshop is being offered twice.

Workshop: Standards, Assessments, and Score Reports Workshop

- **Option 1:** October 9
 - **Time:** 10 a.m. - 5: 30 p.m.
 - [Registration Link](#)
- **Option 2:** October 15
 - **Time:** 10 a.m. - 5: 30 p.m.
 - [Registration Link](#)

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

Differentiating Instruction for English Learners Workshop

The LDOE is partnering with ELPA 21 to sponsor a free workshop to support evidence-based strategies and techniques to enhance both language and content instruction in the classroom.

- **Workshop:** Differentiating Instruction for English Learners/Multilingual Learners
- **When:** October 17
- **Time:** 10 a.m. - 5: 30 p.m. CT
- **Location:** Virtual
- [Registration Link](#)

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

ELA RESOURCES

Resources for School Librarians

The LDOE has resources available to support school librarians. The [Guidelines for Library Programs in Louisiana Schools](#) outlines guidelines for school library programs in Louisiana by focusing on the role of the school librarian as an active partner in the teaching and learning process. Resources to support librarians in the teaching and learning process are also available in the [Louisiana Literacy Library](#). Additionally, librarians can access the [Louisiana Educator Rubric: Other Personnel Guidance](#) to answer questions about the new educator rubric. Please join the [LASL mailing list](#) to receive resources and information on additional professional learning opportunities and to celebrate with Louisiana school librarians. Information is also located on the [LASL Website](#), on [Facebook](#), and on [X](#).

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Accelerate ELA Resources

The [Accelerate ELA resources](#) are now on the [ELA Guidebooks web page](#). These resources support teachers in grades K-10 as they address students' unfinished learning needs.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

New Assessment Resource: Using LEAP Social Studies Rubrics

A new assessment resource, [Using LEAP Social Studies Rubrics](#), is now available in the Assessment Guidance library. This document includes information about

- Differentiating between constructed-response (CR) and extended-response (ER) questions
- Defining language used in the LEAP CR and ER rubrics
- Adapting the LEAP CR and ER rubrics to classroom use
- Scoring using the LEAP CR and ER rubrics

Please share this resource with colleagues. Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

New Bayou Bridges Instructional Slide Decks Coming Soon

The LDOE is developing instructional slide decks to accompany [Bayou Bridges](#) units for Grades 3-8. Decks will include the Core Lesson teacher notes, student supports, images, and questions. Unit 3 slide decks will be released by October 31. The LDOE will release the remaining units on a rolling basis throughout the school year.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Act 260 Numeracy Leader Cohort

Are you a [Numeracy Leader](#) who supports math implementation locally? The LDOE is seeking Numeracy Leaders to collaborate and grow through the Numeracy Leader Cohort. Participants will be expected to complete a grade-specific numeracy course based on [statewide pacing](#), provide constructive feedback, attend monthly hour-long virtual collaborations, and plan varying supports for teachers and school and system leaders. Although this is a voluntary position, this commitment is for the 2024-2025 school year, with the possibility of renewal on August 1, 2025. The expected time commitment will encompass a minimum of one hour per month with opportunities for additional learning and collaboration. [Apply](#) today.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Zearn Highlights

The LDOE is excited to highlight system and school-level Zearn usage throughout the 24-25 school year. The LDOE will highlight systems meeting the three lesson-per-week goals as well as systems' increasing their usage.

Teachers with strong practice are those who

- monitor progress toward the three grade-level lesson per week goal;
- reference and act on the Class, Student, and Tower Reports; and
- celebrate when students are meeting goals.

The LDOE will also highlight the great things happening on Louisiana campuses with Zearn. To highlight great practices with Zearn in schools or classrooms, reach out to STEM@la.gov.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Science Instructional Planning Modules

A [suite of resources](#) designed to support collaborative planning in science is available to science educators on the [K-12 Science Resources website](#). These tools have recently been updated and are intended for use during teacher collaboration around high-quality science instructional materials. Teachers should explore these modules based on the professional needs of the learning community.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STEM RESOURCES

Mark Your Calendars: CS EdWeek 2024

Computer Science Education Week (CS EdWeek) is a nationwide initiative to promote computer science education. CS EdWeek 2024 will take place from December 9-15, with the theme of the **Impacts of Computing**. Take this opportunity to incorporate computer science education experiences in the

classroom using activities designed to be 30-45 minutes long and assembled by grade bands. In November, resources and activities will be available on the LDOE's computer science [webpage](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDTECH RESOURCES

Kami Fall Webinar Series

The LDOE is offering a fantastic series of [webinars](#) to help you make the most of Kami in your classroom. Whether you're new to Kami or looking to explore its latest features, these sessions are for you!
Webinar Topics and Dates:

- Kami for Diverse Learners: Ensure inclusive learning for all! Learn how Kami's built-in accessibility features empower all students to participate and succeed in your classroom.
 - [October 29 at 3 p.m.](#)
 - [October 30 at 4 p.m.](#)
- Feedback Strategies with Kami: Join us to discover how Kami supports effective feedback in your high-quality instructional materials! Learn research-based strategies for providing clear, actionable, and engaging feedback that fosters growth and empowers learners to develop an awareness of their learning. We'll explore Kami's tools for real-time collaboration, multimedia annotations, and personalized feedback loops.
 - [December 3 at 3 p.m.](#)
 - [December 4 at 4 p.m.](#)

Sessions will be recorded and posted on the [LDOE Digital Learning](#) website.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Computer Using Educators (LACUE) Annual Conference

[Registration](#) is now open for the LACUE 2024 Annual Conference. This year's conference focuses on gathering Louisiana educators passionate about integrating technology into their classrooms. The conference will be held in New Orleans, LA from December 10-12 and offers a dynamic experience filled with inspiring keynotes, hands-on workshops, and networking opportunities. Register by **October 13** to secure early bird pricing.

Do you know an educator who is pushing the boundaries of learning with technology? Submit your [nominations](#) for the LaCUE Awards by **October 30**.

Please contact lacue@lacue.org with questions.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

Teacher/Principal, New Teacher, and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year Application Process Open

The Teacher/Principal, New Teacher, and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year application process for the 2024-2025 school year is now open. The application materials and timelines are available in the [Library](#) on the [Awards](#) page. All school systems are encouraged to select up to three teachers, three

principals, and three *new* teachers (with less than one year of teaching experience), one per division (elementary, middle, and high) as their local-level honorees, and submit these selections to the state process. School systems without a formal selection process in place may elect to send their candidates directly to the state-level process.

State-level applications must be submitted via an online application portal, which will open in late 2024.

- Teacher/Principal of the Year and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year applications will be due **January 15, 2025**.
- New Teacher of the Year applications will be due **January 24, 2025**.

Please contact the following with questions.

- Teacher/Principal of the Year - excellenteducators@la.gov
- New Teacher of the Year - laurie.carlton@la.gov
- Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year - shallan.jones@la.gov

Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year, School Health Service Provider of the Year, and the School Physical Activity Award- Application Process Open

The Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year, School Health Service Provider of the Year, and the School Physical Activity Award application process for the 2024-2025 school year are now open. The application materials and timelines are available in the [Library](#) on the [Awards](#) page.

All school systems are encouraged to select candidates as their local-level honorees and submit these selections to the state process. School systems without a formal selection process in place may elect to send their candidates directly to the state-level process.

By December 2, the state-level applications must be submitted via an online application portal.

The LDOE will host an informational Zoom to share details regarding this year's Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year, School Health Service Provider of the Year, and the School Physical Activity Award application processes.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** October 8 at 12 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99786393019?>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 312 626 6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 997 8639 3019
- **Passcode:** 092723

Please contact the following with questions.

- Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year - excellenteducators@la.gov
- School Health Service Provider of the Year - elizabeth.duncan@la.gov
- School Physical Activity Awards - healthyschools@la.gov

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Assessment Literacy: Local Assessment System Review

The LDOE and Center for Assessment (CFA) will team up with leaders from local schools and school systems from November 2024 to May 2025 to guide them through a Local Assessment System Review

Process. This process will evaluate the structure, efficiency, and usefulness of each school or system’s assessment system. The CFA partners will also use the review findings to help create evidence-based action plans that support local system objectives. If you’re interested in this opportunity, please join the informational webinar for more details.

- **Webinar Date/Time:** October 9th at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88266944873?pwd=bQnpTim1YZyTlHUpAg1xJ9R8vFaiih.1>
- **Meeting Phone Number:** 646-568-7788
- **Meeting ID:** 882 6694 4873
- **Meeting Passcode:** 058030

READER SURVEY

We want to hear from you!

In an effort to ensure that the LDOE is providing you with the best and most useful information in our newsletter, we are conducting a brief survey to learn more about how you read and use the Teacher Leader Newsletter. Please take a moment to complete the [survey](#) by **October 11**. Thank you for your time!

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
Content Leaders and Mentor Teachers	believeandprepare@la.gov
EdTech/Digital Learning	digitallearning@la.gov
Educational Leader Licensure Policy Update	believeandprepare@la.gov
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
LEADS	leads@la.gov
Literacy	louisianaliteracy@la.gov

PD Vendor Guide	louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov
Pupil Progression Plan	ppp@la.gov
Science, Math & STEM	STEM@la.gov
Teacher Certification	certification@la.gov
Teacher Leaders and Teacher Leader Advisors	classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov