



Teacher Leader Newsletter



November 2024



Hello! I am Stephen Goebel, and I teach Computer Science and Cybersecurity at Caddo Magnet High School in Shreveport. In the past, I have taught Physics, AP Computer Science, AP Computer Science Principles, and several STEM elective courses. I also serve as vice president of the leadership board for [Louisiana's Computer Science Teacher Association](#) chapter. Over the past nine years, I have enjoyed helping students master concepts and engage with computer science in many different ways. Computer science is one of my favorite courses because students gain first-hand experience applying math, critical thinking, and design thinking. I often challenge myself to improve my skills and content knowledge, to adapt to new technologies, and to expand my ability to increase the relevance of my lessons for students' careers and personal interests.

This year, I was privileged to serve on the [Louisiana K-12 Computer Science Standards Writing Committee](#). I was most excited to help create the standards for the Impacts of Computing. All students deserve the opportunity to learn about computer science because it impacts how they learn and interact with others. In our modern society, students need to be knowledgeable about cybersecurity and the fundamental basics of computing to maximize opportunities throughout their lives. Not all students will pursue careers requiring them to write programs; however, they must understand how the algorithms and software they use operate, represent information, and shape their pursuits. Computer science impacts students' ability to develop critical thinking through computational thinking and problem-solving in all academic disciplines. An excellent way for all students to experience computer science will be with this year's Computer Science Education Week, December 9-15. The LDOE has gathered resources for K-12 educators to use on the [Computer Science web page](#).

Computer science is an exciting new discipline for Louisiana's students and teachers. The LDOE [K-12 Computer Science Education Plan](#) provides guidance to help school systems prepare to implement the state's K-12 Student Standards for Computer Science. In the spring of 2025, the LDOE will continue the partnership with Louisiana State University to offer free professional learning to K-5 educators through the [Ignite! Initiative](#). Ignite will provide K-5 teachers with grade-level appropriate pedagogical and content knowledge in computer science. The LDOE will partner with Southeastern Louisiana University in the spring of 2025 to offer the [Energize! Initiative](#). Energize will provide teachers in grades 6-12 forty hours of no-cost preparation for the Praxis (5652) Computer Science Content exam. Passing the Praxis (5652) Computer Science Content exam will allow teachers to add a computer science endorsement to their certification. I invite all K-12 educators and leaders to review the K-12 Computer Science Plan, [K-12 Student Standards for Computer Science](#), sign up for [Ignite!](#) or [Energize!](#) training, and join me in celebrating CS Ed Week with your students December 9-15!

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SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

National Training on Child Passenger Safety

The LDOE is offering school districts the opportunity to send a team of four personnel for national training on Child Passenger Safety. Registration for [Special Education Transportation Training 2024-2025](#) is now open. School teams attending should consist of transportation administrators, special education administrators, occupational therapists, and physical therapists. There are new opportunities for training throughout the state during the Spring of 2025. All sessions will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The [National School Bus Curriculum](#) is an eight-hour course that provides an overview of the use of child safety restraint systems on school buses, focusing on children with disabilities and chronic conditions. Participants will:

- learn about federal, state, and local laws, crash dynamics and forces, and occupant protection;
- learn about the types of occupant protection that can be used on school buses;
- gain knowledge on appropriate team assessments that lead to the appropriate selection of child safety restraints for individuals with disabilities who travel to school on buses;
- gain knowledge and skills through practice time that includes safely installing the child safety restraint system on the bus and also properly securing the occupant; and
- learn about the securement of wheelchairs and emergency evacuation procedures.

Please contact stephen.guccione@la.gov with any questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Bayou Bridges Instructional Slide Decks

The LDOE is developing instructional slide decks to support the implementation of [Bayou Bridges](#) in grades 3-8. These Bayou Bridges instructional slide decks follow the Core Lesson of each chapter in each unit, providing teachers and students with access to the Big Idea; Framing Questions; literal, inferential, and evaluative questions; visuals; Checks for Understanding; and scaffolded supports all in one convenient location. Teachers should use the instructional decks along with the Student Reader as they implement the Core Lesson of each chapter to increase engagement, assist in lesson pacing, and complete formative checks for understanding. Slide decks can be accessed under grade-level materials on the [Bayou Bridges](#) webpage. The LDOE has released units 1 and 3 slide decks and 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 Professional Learning Checkpoint

Teachers statewide are making progress in completing the [Act 260 Numeracy Course](#). As educators work through the course, they should consider the following tips:

- Teachers on pace to meet the August 2025 deadline should complete Modules 7 and 8 by the end of November.
- Participants should engage with thoughtful replies in discussions. Inaccurate or incomplete replies will be deleted, removing the progress made in the course.
- The post-test is now available. Teachers who have completed all 25 modules may now complete the post-test and print their certificates.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Zearn Reminders

Teachers should regularly monitor expectations and data for [Zearn implementation](#), using the Zearn Class Reports to reflect on the key factors of planning, behavior management, engagement, and goal setting.

Consider the following:

- Are teachers and students signing in to Zearn regularly?
- Are students getting 90 minutes per week with Zearn?
- Are students completing three grade-level Zearn lessons per week?
- Are expectations clear and in place for students who meet the 90 minutes per week goal?

Join [Zearn/Louisiana Leader Collaboration](#) on Tuesdays throughout the school year to discuss implementation with leaders from systems across the state. The next meeting is November 12 at 9 a.m.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with any questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

High School OpenSciEd Science Pilot Monthly Office Hours

The next LDOE monthly office hour for teachers implementing the OpenSciEd High School materials will be held on December 3 at 3:30 p.m. These hour-long sessions are designed to provide implementation support and as a platform for collaborative planning. Participating [biology](#), [chemistry](#), and [physics](#) teachers are invited to join monthly using the information below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 3 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.

Date Change: Monthly High School Science Support for Leaders

The LDOE offers monthly support sessions for high school science leaders in schools or systems implementing [high-quality science instructional materials](#) (HQIM). These sessions provide leaders with professional learning grounded in HQIM and a space to collaborate with peers and state science specialists. While these sessions occur on the second Wednesday of each month, the November and December sessions will be combined due to the holidays. The next session will be held on December 3 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This session will focus on how to “Bridge Between LER and OpenSciEd Part III-Supports.” An updated invitation has been sent to current participants.

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

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STEM RESOURCES

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

The [Energize Initiative](#) offers 40 hours of no-cost preparation to teachers in grades 6-12 for the Praxis (5652) Computer Science content exam. The Praxis (5652) Exam allows certified 6-12 teachers to add the Computer Science endorsement to their teaching license. The initiative is offered virtually, hybrid, and in person. The exam training will occur from January through June 2025.

Refresher eight-hour exam sessions will be offered for teachers who participated in Energize in 2024 and want additional exam review before attempting the Praxis (5652) exam. Teachers may register for the [eight or 40-hour training](#) through the online form.

Please contact energize@southeastern.edu with questions.

Ignite Initiative Training for K-5 Teachers

The [Ignite Initiative](#) offers 24 hours of no-cost teacher training in computational thinking, block programming, and cyber safety to prepare K-5 teachers to integrate computer science education experiences into their content areas. Multiple cohorts are available in virtual, in-person, and hybrid formats. Registration opens soon, with training beginning in January 2025. Sign up to learn more by completing the [Ignite Initiative Interest Form](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

CS EdWeek 2024 Classroom Resources

Computer Science Education Week (CS EdWeek) is a nationwide initiative to promote computer science education. CS EdWeek 2024 will take place December 9-15, with the theme of the Impacts of Computing. CS EdWeek is one way to begin exploring computer science content from the [Draft K-12 Louisiana Computer Science Standards](#). Use [lessons and activities](#) for grades K-12 as an opportunity to incorporate computer science education experiences in the classroom.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDTECH

Enhance Feedback Strategies with Upcoming Kami Webinar

The LDOE is pleased to announce an upcoming webinar in our Kami webinar series focused on leveraging Kami to provide effective and engaging student feedback. This informative session will include best practices for delivering clear, actionable feedback and utilizing Kami's diverse toolset for collaborative learning and multimedia annotations. This session will also discuss developing personalized feedback approaches to foster individual student growth.

This webinar presents a valuable opportunity to refine feedback practices and optimize the use of Kami in the classroom.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 9th at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92812113006>

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

LACUE Registration

The [Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators](#) (LACUE) annual conference will be held in New Orleans from December 10 to 12. Don't miss this chance to explore the latest in edtech, network with fellow educators, and learn from inspiring speakers.

Please contact lacue@lacue.org with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

Nominations are now open for the [2025 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching \(PAEMST\)](#). This award is the highest and most prestigious honor bestowed by the United States government specifically for recognizing K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teachers. This year's cycle will recognize teachers of grades 7-12. [Nominations](#) will close on **February 6**.

Please contact info@paemist.org or STEM@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Foreign Language Teachers' Association (LFLTA) Annual Conference

The Louisiana Foreign Language Teachers' Association (LFLTA) will host its 2025 annual conference on January 17-18 at the Natchitoches Events Center in Natchitoches. This two-day annual conference provides impactful professional learning as well as networking opportunities for Louisiana's world languages and dual language immersion teachers and administrators.

For more information or to register, please visit www.lflta.net.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

Teacher and Principal of the Year Application Online Portals Opening

The online portals for coordinators and state-level applicants for Teacher and Principal of the Year will open on November 12. All application materials and links to the online portals are available in the [Library](#) and on the [Awards](#) page.

All school systems are encouraged to select up to three teachers and three principals, 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 are due by **January 15** and must be submitted via the online application portal. The LDOE will host an informational Zoom for candidates and coordinators regarding the online portals and the Teacher and Principal of the Year application process. Please see the details listed below.

Teacher and Principal of the Year Informational/Help Desk Calls for Coordinators:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 12 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:**
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/95140043346?pwd=5qJl0cJSc11KUdiHoYFdanXvztcJ3a.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 951 4004 3346
- **Passcode:** 355820

Teacher and Principal of the Year Informational/Help Desk Calls for Coordinators/Candidates:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 12 at 4 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:**
<https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98777071507?pwd=0pOA3KviyjpVdbl3OidPtQEJvdx6PB.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 987 7707 1507
- **Passcode:** 106329

The dates and times of future webinars are listed in the [Informational Webinars for Candidates and Stakeholders document](#).

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

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
Literacy	louisianaliteracy@la.gov
PD Vendor Guide	louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov
Pupil Progression Plan	ppp@la.gov
Registration for the Teacher Leader Summit	ldoeevents@la.gov
STEM	STEM@la.gov
Teacher Certification	certification@la.gov
Teacher Leaders and Teacher Leader Advisors	classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov