



Teacher Leader Newsletter



November 2025



Hi everyone!

I am Kellie Boquet, and I teach Biology at Acadiana Renaissance Charter Academy High School in Lafayette, Louisiana. This is my 30th year of teaching, and I love what I do! I have served as a Teacher Leader Advisor for several years, was a facilitator for the OpenSciEd Elementary pilot, and currently hold the role of Vice President on the Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA) Board.

I have seen how high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) can improve students' learning experiences and outcomes. It is truly awesome when we all learn together through investigation and applying knowledge to make sense of the world around us! My classroom walls are covered with evidence of learning so students can see their contributions and take ownership daily. Two practices I think are most

important to student success are staying focused on the lesson-level takeaways and using the transfer tasks for every unit.

Maximizing the impact of HQIM requires purposeful planning, so I am excited to see planning support resources on the [K-12 Science Planning Page](#) continue to grow. When supporting other teachers in planning with HQIM, I always start with the [Louisiana Student Standards for Science](#). I also recommend using the [Planning Guide for Science](#) to stay focused during teacher collaboration time on things like identifying the important takeaways in each lesson, leveraging key assessment opportunities, and analyzing student work.

If you are looking to up your Science planning game, check out some [Appendix A Learning Progressions](#) to plan for scaffolding or a new planning resource like [Integrating LDOE Formative Assessment Items into Science HQIM](#).

Teachers in all content areas understand the importance of effective planning. Planning support is available for all content areas on the LDOE's [Instructional Support](#) web page.

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NUMERACY RESOURCES

Flashcards for Math Fluency

The Louisiana Department of Education is excited to announce the distribution of flashcards to all elementary schools across the state. These flashcards are designed to support fluency development and help all students build confidence and mastery in math.

Teachers will receive dry-erase addition number bond flashcards for students in grades K-2 and dry-erase multiplication number bond flashcards for grades 3-5. These resources will enhance student understanding of the foundational relationships within these mathematical concepts.

For additional class-ready activities and ideas for families to use flashcards at home, please visit our webpage, [Flashcards for Math Fluency](#).

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

LANE Numeracy Professional Learning Office Hours

The LDOE has developed a full suite of Numeracy Professional Learning courses for K-12 math teachers. This includes the training required by [Act 260 \(2023\)](#) and [Act 353 of 2025 \(LANE\)](#). Each month, the LDOE holds office hours to review important components of the Numeracy Professional Learning, including progress completion, monitoring reports, and responses/submissions. This month's Office Hours will be held on November 19 at 9 a.m. All school and system leaders who support math instruction are encouraged to attend.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** November 19 at 9 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/6158352036>
- **Meeting ID#:** 615 835 2036
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312 626 6799

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

New Unit Study and Lesson Preparation Protocols

New [Unit Study](#) and [Lesson Preparation Protocols](#) outline best practices in planning for math instruction. The tools are designed to help teachers make the most of high-quality instructional materials.

At their core, these protocols help teachers do four things well:

- clarify the specific learning goals tied to the standards
- anticipate where students may struggle or hold misconceptions
- study how lessons connect within a unit and across units, so instruction feels coherent

- highlight key tasks, questions, and strategies with which every student should engage

Use of the new Unit Study and Lesson Preparation Protocol allows teachers to come into planning with a shared understanding of what matters most, strengthening collaboration during planning and team meetings. Ultimately, this leads to more consistent pacing, higher student engagement, and stronger outcomes in every classroom. These resources, and many others, can be found on our [Louisiana Math](#) webpage.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

Improving Outcomes for English Learners: Louisiana's Framework

The [Louisiana English Learner \(EL\) Framework](#) provides a statewide guide for building strong instructional systems that support both language development and academic success. Grounded in five key areas — leadership and program development, rigorous instruction and collaborative planning, data-informed decisions, planning for future success, and family support systems — the Framework emphasizes the importance of using high-quality instructional materials to make language learning an intentional part of every classroom.

Teacher leaders bring the Framework to life by fostering collaboration, using data to spark reflection, and championing instructional practices that make language a natural part of learning. When the pillars are woven into daily instruction, classrooms become places where English Learners are active participants in rigorous lessons and where every student has the support and access needed to thrive.

For more information and resources, visit the [English Learners Resources](#) page.

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

ELA RESOURCES

ELA Reference Guides for Grades 3-12

The [ELA Reference Guides](#), originally designed for the [ELA Guidebooks curriculum](#), are a great resource for all students, regardless of the ELA curriculum used in the classroom. These student-facing resources include reading, writing, and speaking and listening supports, separated by grade band.

Each topic in the ELA Reference Guides begins with basic information about the topic before digging deeper into the process. Additional information, including specific details and examples, is provided, along with supplementary resource links for many topics.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Social Studies Office Hours

The LDOE will hold its fourth social studies office hours session of the 2025-2026 school year on **December 3 at 3:15 p.m.** This session will feature using social studies strategies with high-quality instructional materials. For access to past office hours slides and information on upcoming sessions, please refer to the [Social Studies Office Hours flyer](#) on the [K-12 Social Studies Planning webpage](#).

Webinar Date and Time: November 5 at 3:15 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97436075546>

Webinar Phone Number: 1 346 248 7799

Meeting ID#: 974 3607 5546

Meeting Passcode: 280838

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

Bayou Bridges and Foundations of Freedom Pacing Guides

The LDOE has released detailed alternate pacing guides for [Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Social Studies Curriculum](#) and [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#). Developed by social studies educators, these guides offer standards-aligned pacing options that are coherent, flexible, and designed to support student needs. Units 1-4 are available, with the remaining units to be released on a rolling basis. Teachers should use these pacing guides to adjust instruction and better meet the needs of students.

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

Social Studies Frameworks

To support high school social studies instruction, the LDOE has released [course frameworks](#) for World History and World Geography. Units 1-4 are now available, with the remaining units to be released on a rolling basis. Teachers are encouraged to use these frameworks to ensure alignment with state standards, guide lesson planning, and provide a coherent learning experience for students.

Please contact socialstudies@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Updated Science Implementation Guides

The LDOE is updating the Louisiana guides for implementing high-quality science instructional materials. The updates add new science-released test items correlated to the Louisiana Student Standards for Science (LSSS) for each unit of the respective [high-quality materials](#). These items appear in the “LDOE Formative Assessment Resources” section of each guide. Updated guides for Grades 3 and 4 are now available on the [K-12 Science Planning Page](#), with guides for the other grade levels coming soon.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Now Available: New Louisiana Implementation Guides

With the identification of additional [high-quality science instructional materials](#) for high school biology, the LDOE science team has published the following new implementation guides:

- [Louisiana Guide to Implementing BSCS Biology: Understanding for Life](#);
- [Louisiana Guide to Implementing Activate Learning OpenSciEd Biology](#); and
- [Louisiana Guide to Implementing Carolina OpenSciEd Biology](#).

These resources include information about standards, LDOE formative assessment resources for each unit, and more.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STEM RESOURCES

Greauxing STEM Stewards

Funded through The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s [Gulf Research Program](#), [Greauxing STEM Stewards \(GSS\)](#) supports Louisiana educators in developing high-quality, open educational STEM resources. As part of the grant, the GSS Fellowship, developed in partnership with

[Louisiana Sea Grant](#), engages teachers from across the state in creating place-based STEM experiences that connect students to local aquaculture career pathways. The open-source aquaculture curriculum for grades 6–8 incorporates experiential learning through a new Environmentally Controlled Agriculture (CEA) facility where students explore aquaculture, hydroponics, and sustainable agriculture with real-world data and technology.

For more information about this project or curricula, email STEM@la.gov.

Computer Science Education Week is Coming Soon!

Computer Science Education Week (CS Ed Week) is **December 8-14**. This is an excellent time to foster awareness and prepare for the implementation of the [Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science](#). Plan engaging [activities](#) that promote student exploration of core computer science concepts such as coding, computational thinking, and cybersecurity. Use this week as an opportunity to explore computer science, whether you introduce a single classroom activity, plan a school-wide spotlight, or organize a system-wide focus on CS Ed Week.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDTECH

Unleash Innovation with the Presidential AI Challenge

Get ready to inspire the next generation of innovators! [The Presidential AI Challenge](#) is a new national competition that invites K-12 students and educators to solve real-world problems using artificial intelligence. This is a fantastic opportunity for students of all backgrounds to unleash their creativity and develop essential skills for the future.

The challenge is open to students and educators across all grade levels, with four distinct categories for participation:

- Elementary (Grades K-5): Open to classrooms or groups led by an educator or community leader.
- Middle School (Grades 6-8): Open to teams of 1-4 students with a supervising adult.
- High School (Grades 9-12): Open to teams of 1-4 students with a supervising adult.
- Educators (K-12): Open to teams of 1-3 educators.

Teams can choose a project track that best fits their interests and skills:

- Youth Teams can choose between two tracks:
 - Track I (Proposal): Develop a detailed proposal explaining how AI could be used to solve a specific community problem.
 - Track II (Technical/Implementation): Build an actual AI-powered solution, like an app or website, that addresses a community challenge. 8
- Educator Teams (Track III) will either design an innovative approach to teaching an AI concept to students or develop an AI-based tool to enhance classroom efficiency or communication.

Registration is already open. All projects must be submitted by **January 20**.

Assemble your team and visit the [Presidential AI Challenge website](#) to register and find sample projects, scoring guides, and other helpful resources.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

LDOE Names Physical Education Standards Review Committee

On October 15, BESE approved the [Physical Education Standards Review Committee](#) members who will lead the formal review of the state's K–12 physical education student standards. Committee meetings began on October 29 and will continue through February 2026. All meetings will be held in person at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge and are open to the public.

Additional information is available on the [Physical Education Standards Review Overview](#) page and the [FAQ](#) page. Educators and stakeholders are encouraged to share feedback on the current standards using the [PE Standards Review and Revision Feedback Survey](#) through **November 14**.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Assessment Development Educator Review Committees

The Office of Assessments, Accountability and Analytics will convene assessment committees for the LEAP and LEAP Connect assessments in January and February to:

- review newly developed LEAP Connect items for alignment and content-related criteria, and
- review English language arts proposed passages to ensure content alignment, the selections are clearly worded with grade-appropriate language, and the selections are appropriate for all Louisiana students.

Interested educators should access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees document](#) for information on exact dates, meeting details, and links to apply to participate on specific committees. The deadline to complete the applications is **November 13**.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

School Support, Health Provider, and Physical Activity Awards- Application Process Open

The application process for the following awards programs is now open:

- [Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year](#)
- [School Health Service Provider of the Year](#)
- [School Physical Activity Award](#)

Applications are due by **December 9**.

All application materials, online portal links, timelines, and additional resources can be accessed on the [Awards](#) page. To assist stakeholders, [informational webinars](#) will be conducted throughout the application process. On these calls, information will be shared about the timeline/process, as well as steps for using the online portals. Additionally, there will be time for questions to be answered.

Please contact the following with questions:

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

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

The application process for the following awards programs is now open:

- Teacher and Principal of the Year
- New Teacher of the Year
- Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year

Application Deadlines

- Teacher/Principal of the Year and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year applications are due **January 14**.
- New Teacher of the Year applications are due **January 21**.

The application materials and timelines are posted in the resource section for each program on the [Staff and Educator Awards](#) page. State-level applications are to be submitted via an online application portal, which will open later this fall.

To assist stakeholders, [informational webinars](#) will be conducted throughout the application process. On these calls, information will be shared about the timeline/process, as well as steps for using the online portals. Additionally, there will be time for questions to be answered.

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

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
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

PD Vendor 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