



Teacher Leader Newsletter



April 2025



Hello! My name is Ana Laura Cruz Hernandez, and I am from Hidalgo, Mexico. I have been part of the Louisiana International Associate Teacher Program for four years, teaching Spanish as a second language to third, fourth, and fifth graders at E.K. Key and R.W. Vincent Elementary Schools in Sulphur.

Teaching a second language fascinates me because it allows students to learn a new language and explore different traditions. Since arriving in Louisiana, I have learned various cooperative learning strategies to engage my students in their learning. I also have learned to harness the power of student interests, incorporating them into lessons to create engaging, meaningful learning experiences.

For example, I incorporate their interests by using songs, games, activities, personalized projects, and even information about their favorite artists to teach Spanish. The key is to make the content interesting, motivate the students to learn, and ensure they have fun while doing so. I am grateful to share my unique background with my students while also learning from their distinct perspectives, enriching our experience together.

Greetings, Louisiana Educators! My name is Fabien Barthélémy. I am a Social Studies teacher from France. Thanks to CODOFIL and the LDOE, I have been teaching in Louisiana for three years as an International Associate Teacher.

At Westdale Middle School in Baton Rouge, I have had the opportunity to teach sixth, seventh, and eighth graders in French Immersion. It has been a challenge to teach the French language through the Social Studies content, so I developed different strategies and activities.

I have discovered that podcasting can be a meaningful classroom experience for students. Creating podcasts keeps students engaged in the different steps of the learning process: listening, understanding, organizing, writing, speaking, and interacting. Together with my students, we make the recording sessions serious and interesting but also fun and rewarding.

I hope that my French teaching experience has been as beneficial to my school community as Louisiana has been to me. I have thoroughly enjoyed learning the history of the United States and exploring the historical and cultural gems of Louisiana.



In This Issue

- Literacy
- Support for Diverse Learners
- ELA Resources
- Social Studies Resources
- Math Resources
- Science Resources
- Computer Science and STEM Resources
- EdTech Resources
- Educator Recognition
- Educator Opportunities
- Contact Us

LITERACY

Adolescent Literacy Professional Learning Opportunity

The literacy team is offering two full-day virtual trainings on adolescent literacy through Keys to Literacy. The two sessions being offered are Advanced Word Study and Keys to Adolescent Literacy. Advanced Word Study will focus on instructional practices in teaching advanced word study skills to combine knowledge about both the sound-spelling correspondences and the meaning units. Keys to Adolescent Literacy will offer an overview of adolescent literacy instruction for students in grades 5-12 in all subject areas. It builds background knowledge on how students learn to read, best practices for teaching content reading and writing skills, and why some older students have difficulty.

For more information, or to register for the sessions, consult the [Adolescent Literacy Training Opportunities Google Form](#).

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

English Learner Teacher Symposium Interest Survey

The Division of Diverse Learners invites teacher leaders who support English Learners (ELs) to attend the EL Teacher Symposium, a hands-on professional development event designed to enhance EL instruction. This symposium will feature expert-led workshops, collaborative sessions, and innovative strategies to support EL success across all content areas. It is scheduled for September 22, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, LA.

For more information, or to complete the survey, please complete the [EL Teacher Leader Symposium Survey](#).

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](#) outline recommendations 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.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Bayou Bridges Office Hours

The LDOE social studies team will hold its fourth office hours session on April 2 from 3:15 to 4 p.m. This session will cover Bayou Bridges Resource One-pagers and the launch of [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#). Please see the [Social Studies Office Hours flyer](#) on the [Bayou Bridges landing page](#) to access past office hours slides and information on the remaining office hours sessions.

- **Date and Time:** April 2 at 3:15 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/92800306323?pwd=eObx7y79EwbnVD7OGfK2nHap7GN7qV.1>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 346 248 7799
- **Meeting ID#:** 928 0030 6323
- **Meeting Passcode:** 644638

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Act 260 Numeracy Training

August 1 is the deadline for all grades 4-8 mathematics teachers to complete the required [Act 260 Numeracy Training](#). To ensure appropriate pacing, please support teachers in completing the following modules in April:

- Module 18: Strategies for Adding and Subtracting Rational Numbers Part 1
- Module 19: Strategies for Adding and Subtracting Rational Numbers Part 2

Congratulations to the 952 educators who have completed the course and earned their certificate.

Please plan on attending our sessions at this year's Teacher Leader Summit, where we will make connections between numeracy training, high-quality instructional materials, and the Louisiana Educator Rubric.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Zearn Summer Intensive Learning

As part of the Zearn partnership, the LDOE will continue to provide every public K-8 school with a [school account](#) through June 2026. The [Zearn Summer Intensive Series](#) is a high-quality resource that provides a great tool to support continued summer learning for students in formal programs and those learning at home. For ideas on implementing Zearn in summer programs or supporting parents this summer, reference the [LDOE Math Summer Learning Guidance](#).

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

Math Implementation Guide Updates

To support the implementation of the Louisiana Math Pillars, the LDOE math team has updated the Louisiana Guides to Implementing for Eureka Math Squared and Zearn. Updates will also be made to the Illustrative Math, enVision, and iReady Classroom Mathematics guides. The updated guides include:

- Charts that are easier to access
- Additional guidance on lessons to support planning and pacing

Guides are housed in the Curriculum Resources section of the [Louisiana Math page](#).

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

K-12 Science Summer Professional Learning - Registration Deadline Extended

The LDOE science team will offer in-person professional learning sessions in July for K-12 science teachers and leaders. These sessions will focus on effective science teaching and learning strategies using examples from high-quality science instructional materials and cover key topics, including understanding the LDOE science instructional model, aligning with the Louisiana Educator Rubric, and planning strategies for effective science instruction. More information about the [two-day teacher sessions](#) and [one-day leader session](#) is available on the linked flyers.

There is no registration fee, but seating is limited, and some locations are already closed to capacity. To request a seat, please fill out the [teacher registration form](#) or [leader registration form](#) by **May 9**.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STEM RESOURCES

Computer Science Teacher Leader Advisor Applications

Highly motivated Computer Science [Teacher Leader Advisors](#) (TLAs) are needed to drive the implementation of K-12 Computer Science Standards. Computer Science TLAs will develop teacher resources, deepen curriculum understanding, and deliver training. This paid opportunity allows educators to extend their impact beyond the classroom. [Applications](#) are open until May 12. Educators are not required to be school-site teacher leaders to apply.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Greauxing STEM Stewards Fellowship Application

The Greauxing STEM Stewards Fellowship is a unique professional learning opportunity for Louisiana educators in grades 6–12 who are passionate about designing innovative, place-based lessons that connect aquaponics and natural resources to various regions of the state. This fellowship, led by the LDOE in partnership with LSU Sea Grant, will meet monthly from **June 2025 through December 2026** to support teachers in lesson design, provide constructive feedback, and foster collaboration in aquaponics, aquaculture, agriculture, and hydroponics. Selected teachers will be compensated up to **\$1,900** for their participation. If you are interested in this opportunity, please complete the [Greauxing STEM Stewards Fellowship Application](#) by **April 14**.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with any questions.

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 initiative is offered virtually, hybrid, and in person with cohorts available through June 2025.

Refresher sessions will also be offered for teachers who participated in Energize previously and want additional exam review before attempting the Praxis (5652) exam. Teachers may register for either [training](#) using the online form.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Ignite Initiative: Computer Science 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. [Registration](#) is now open, with training cohorts available in virtual, in-person, and hybrid formats from February through June.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit Session Preview: STEM and Computer Science

To empower educators with the knowledge and resources necessary for high-quality STEM and computer science instruction, the 2025 Teacher Leader Summit will feature targeted sessions designed to support the implementation of the Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science and enhance STEM education. STEM and computer science sessions will focus on:

- Unpacking the new K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science
- Supporting computer science standards implementation for educators and leaders
- Applying hands-on STEM strategies and connecting students with STEM careers

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDTECH RESOURCES

Teacher Leader Summit Session Preview: Digital Learning

The 2025 Teacher Leader Summit will offer sessions designed to provide teacher leaders with the knowledge and skills to harness the transformative power of technology to enhance instruction, engage

students, and ultimately improve learning outcomes. The featured EdTech sessions will focus on:

- Integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education
- Leveraging digital tools to enhance teaching and learning
- Importance of thoughtful and intentional technology integration
- Strategies for using technology to support English Learners
- Responsible technology use and digital citizenship
- Using technology to assess and showcase student understanding in diverse ways

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

International Program Opportunities and Exchanges

The state of Louisiana's international government partnerships provide a number of international opportunities and exchange programs for interested students, teachers, schools, and communities. These opportunities include virtual and in-person teacher and class language, culture, and STEM exchanges and the recruitment of international associate teachers for world languages programs.

Schools and systems interested in learning about potential opportunities should complete the [International Program Opportunities and Exchanges Survey](#) by **May 1**.

Please contact language.acquisition@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Development Educator Review Committees

The Division of Assessment Content will convene assessment committees for the LEAP assessment in July and September to:

- Review newly developed items for alignment, content-related criteria, and appropriateness for all Louisiana students (Math and ELA)
- Provide recommendations on achievement level expectations (Social Studies)

Interested educators should access the [Assessment Development Educator Review Committees document](#) for information on exact dates, meeting details, application links, and deadlines to apply to participate on specific committees. The deadline to complete the applications is **April 18**.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Advisor Applications Now Open

The LDOE is excited to announce that applications are now being accepted for Diverse Learners (English Learners), Computer Science, and Instructional Materials Review [Teacher Leader Advisors](#) (TLAs). TLAs serve an essential role in supporting the implementation of the Louisiana Student Standards by reviewing instructional materials, creating resources, and providing professional learning for educators. Interested educators should submit their [applications](#) by May 12.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

Announcing State-Level Honorees for Teacher/Principal of the Year, New Teacher of the Year, and Early Childhood Teacher/Leader of the Year

The LDOE is excited to announce the [2026 Teacher and Principal of the Year Semifinalists](#), the [2026 New Teacher of the Year Finalists](#), and the [2026 Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year Finalists](#). These educators are making exceptional gains with students. Their commitment to student success exemplifies Louisiana's teaching profession.

All of these state-level honorees will be honored at the 19th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala, which will be held at the World War II Museum on the evening of July 26. This exciting event is co-sponsored by [Dream Teachers](#).

Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

Please contact the emails below 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

Louisiana Librarians Association and Louisiana Association of School Librarians Awards

The Louisiana Librarians Association and the Louisiana Association of School Librarians announced the winner of the 2025 Sue Heffley Award and the 2025 Louisiana School Librarian of the Year. Jennifer Tillman, a Teaching & Learning Specialist from Caddo Parish, was named the 2025 Sue Heffley Award winner. Amanda Blanco, a librarian at Lafayette High School, was named the 2025 Louisiana School Librarian of the Year.

Please contact elaguidebooks@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 |
| EdTech/Digital Learning | digitallearning@la.gov |
| Educational Leader Licensure Policy Update | believeandprepare@la.gov |
| Educator Background Credentialing | educatorclearance@la.gov |
| ELA Guidebooks | elaguidebooks@la.gov |
| Environmental Education | environmentaleducation@la.gov |

| | |
|---|--|
| Financial Aid Assistance | ldfinancial@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 |
| STEM | STEM@la.gov |
| Teacher Certification | certification@la.gov |
| Teacher Leaders and Teacher Leader Advisors | classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov |