



Teacher Leader Newsletter



May 2025



My name is Nikki Washington, and I proudly serve as the Coordinator of Instructional Technology for East Baton Rouge Parish Schools, where I've spent the last 19 years supporting educators and students.

I work alongside the instructional technology team to help educators integrate technology in effective and sustainable ways. One of the most rewarding parts of this work is guiding educators through the intentional closeout of their digital classrooms, ensuring a smooth finish to the school year and a strong start to the next year.

Our team provides clear guidance at the end and beginning of each school year to support schools in closing out and reopening their digital learning environments. These tools help protect data, promote organization, and support continuity.

Cleaning up digital platforms helps reduce clutter and increase efficiency. Archiving classes, organizing Google Drive folders with consistent naming conventions, and saving commonly used materials as templates help ensure readiness for the new year.

Communicating with students and families is essential. Remind them that students can still access their Clever accounts and Google Drive to continue learning over the summer.

The instructional technology team encourages teams to reflect on tool usage by reviewing analytics and student data to determine which platforms had the greatest impact on student learning. I encourage you to review the [End of Year Google Classroom Cleanup](#) document as this school year winds down to ensure a smooth transition out of your current school year and into the next.

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SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Social Studies Office Hours

The LDOE social studies team will hold its fifth office hours session on May 7 at 3:15 p.m. This session will preview the social studies sessions available at this year's [Teacher Leader Summit](#). 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:** May 7 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
- **Passcode:** 644638

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Foundations of Freedom: Now Available

[Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#) is now available for download. Teachers are encouraged to visit the [Foundations of Freedom landing page](#) to access materials, such as:

- Foundations of Freedom Student Volumes
- Foundations of Freedom Teacher's Guide
- Foundations of Freedom Curriculum Guide
- Foundations of Freedom Standards Tracker
- Foundations of Freedom Unit Study Tool

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Foundations of Freedom: Summer Civics Institute

To support the initial implementation of [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#), the LDOE is hosting in-person professional learning opportunities this summer. This opportunity is open to system and school leaders and any formal, community-based, or pre-service K-12 social studies educator who will utilize [Foundations of Freedom: A Louisiana Civics Program](#) in the upcoming school year.

See the [Foundations of Freedom Summer Civics Institute flyer](#) for dates, locations, and registration information. To request a seat in one of the half-day sessions, complete the registration form by **July 1**.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Bayou Bridges Student Workbooks

Bayou Bridges student workbooks are available for the 2025-2026 school year. These workbooks are designed to support student learning by including:

- Student reading notes pages
- Primary sources
- Checks for understanding
- Activity pages
- Performance tasks
- Supplementary map or source activities

Workbooks can be downloaded from the [Bayou Bridges: a K-8 Social Studies Curriculum](#) landing page or purchased for \$2 each from Core Knowledge at labayoubridges@coreknowledge.org.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Coming Soon: Social Studies Resources

The LDOE is releasing several new [Bayou Bridges, a K-8 Social Studies Curriculum](#), and high school resources this summer, including:

- Bayou Bridges Standards Trackers to ensure comprehensive coverage of each content standard,
- Bayou Bridges Resource Hub, consolidating all internal and external links on one Google Sheet,
- Bayou Bridges Alternate Pacing Guides for grades 3-8, providing additional pacing options for teachers,
- K-2 Instructional Slide Decks, developed in collaboration with the LDOE literacy team, to enhance student engagement, support lesson pacing, and facilitate formative assessments, and
- World Geography and World History High School Frameworks, a valuable resource to support instruction and ensure consistent curricular alignment across all grades K-12.

Teachers are encouraged to visit the [Bayou Bridges, a K-8 social Studies Curriculum](#) and [K-12 Social Studies Planning](#) pages this summer to access these valuable new resources.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Zearn Summer Intensive Series

[Zearn Summer Intensive Series](#) is available to support continued learning this summer. All students engaged in Zearn this school year can access Zearn at home this summer. Zearn is accessible on any device with the student's login credentials. To provide students access, teachers must change their assignments to the [Summer Intensive Series](#) for the grade students are "rising to" in the fall, before students leave for the summer.

Please contact math@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Now Available: New and Updated Science Implementation Resources

The LDOE published the following new and updated resources to assist systems with planning for science implementation in the 2025-2026 school year:

- Louisiana Guide to Piloting OpenSciEd: [Grades K-2](#), [Grade 3](#), [Grade 4](#), [Grade 5](#)
- Louisiana Guide to Implementing Carolina OpenSciEd: [Grade 6](#), [Grade 7](#), [Grade 8](#)
- [OpenSciEd Purchasing and Professional Learning](#)

Resources supporting all [high-quality science curricula and pilots](#) are located on the [K-12 Science Planning web page](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

inquiryHub (iHub) Biology Transition from High-Quality Pilot

Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, inquiryHub Biology will no longer be designated as a high-quality science pilot. This change follows the second phase of materials development by the iHub team with the completion of the OpenSciEd Biology, Chemistry, and Physics materials.

While the foundational inquiryHub materials will remain on the inquiryHub website until 2027, the inquiryHub team will only offer professional learning for the OpenSciEd high school materials.

Systems and schools planning to adopt a new high-quality option for high school Biology may consider [OpenSciEd High School Biology](#) or BSCS Biology. Both of these curricula are supported by professional learning. More information on these materials can be found on the [K-12 Science Planning web page](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STEM RESOURCES

Computer Science Teacher Leader Advisor Applications - NOW OPEN until May 12

Highly motivated Computer Science [Teacher Leader Advisors](#) (TLAs) are needed to drive the implementation of the 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 now and will close **May 12**. Educators are not required to be school-site teacher leaders to apply.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Last Chance to Register: Energize Initiative Praxis (5652) Computer Science Content Exam Preparation

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.

Last Chance to Register: 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

Video Creation Support and Tools

The LDOE has released the [Video Creation Support and Tools for World Language](#), designed to provide World Language educators with practical guidance and tools for integrating video projects into their teaching. While initially developed to support World Language teachers in creating authentic target language videos with their students, this guide offers valuable strategies and practical tips that are applicable across all subject areas.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Digital Citizenship for Artificial Intelligence

The LDOE has also released [Digital Citizenship and AI: A Guide for Secondary Students](#), a crucial resource for educators to help secondary students navigate the digital world responsibly, particularly concerning Artificial Intelligence. Understanding digital citizenship, which includes norms of technology use and safe and responsible engagement online, is vital when using AI tools.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

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

2025 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Nominees from Louisiana

The LDOE is excited to announce that three Louisiana schools have been selected for their innovative environmental education efforts to reduce impact and costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure sustainability.

The Louisiana nominees are:

- Ecole Bilingue De La Nouvelle-Orléans
- Scholandville Pre-Engineering Magnet Academy
- Westdale Middle School

Nominees will be recognized at the June 3 BESE meeting. Congratulations to these outstanding Louisiana schools!

Please contact environmentaleducation@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	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
STEM	STEM@la.gov
Teacher Certification	certification@la.gov
Teacher Leaders and Teacher Leader Advisors	classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov