

# LOUISIANA PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

A Resource to Inform and Celebrate  
Louisiana's Building-Level Leaders

January 25, 2024

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## Aspiring Principal Fellows



Greetings, my Fellow Educators! As a member of the Aspiring Principal Fellowship Cohort II, I am grateful for the wonderful experiences that I gained in the fellowship during the 2022-2023 school year. When I began my APF journey, I had just entered my first year as an elementary school principal. Therefore, the wealth of knowledge that I attained during each school visit was invaluable. As a school leader, I use my aspiring principal fellowship experience as a guide in decision-making and maintaining a positive school setting.

I met many school leaders and future school leaders along the way. Each person filled my cup with useful information solely based on experience and what they have learned throughout the years. One small piece of advice that I offer to each of you as you follow your educational journey, is to not only align yourself with those who share like-minded thinking but also listen to those who can open your mind to a whole new perspective of how to move forward with your vision as a school leader. The Aspiring Principal Fellowship journey may seem short-lived, but you will carry all your experiences with you for a lifetime.

**Leslie Sumler, Principal, Calhoun Elementary School, Ouachita Parish**



In 2022, I was selected to participate in the Aspiring Principal Fellowship program. This incredible opportunity allowed me to embark on a journey across various locations in the state, providing me with firsthand insights into the operations of schools. The knowledge, experiences, and lifelong friends and colleagues across the state will continue to benefit me and my leadership for many years. After every meeting, I felt invigorated and motivated, eagerly planning how to implement the best practices I learned.

An additional highlight of the program was the provision of the Hogan Leadership Forecast to every participant, coupled with personalized one-hour coaching sessions. This allowed the participants to delve deeper into our leadership strengths and challenges, providing us with a comprehensive portfolio of our results. Continuously leveraging the Hogan assessment, I engage in self-reflection to enhance and refine my leadership skills.

As an elementary assistant principal, I am extremely grateful for the Aspiring Principal Fellowship program, as it has been instrumental in enhancing my effectiveness in my role. The program's significant contributions have provided me with valuable insights and transformative learning experiences that have helped shape me into the leader I am today.

**Kasey Hough, Assistant Principal, Union Parish Elementary School, Union Parish**

## LDOE Corner



After thirty-one years in the PK-12 setting, I became the Executive Director of Educator Certification and Credentialing with an amazing team of dedicated professionals. Since certification is often individualized to an educator's unique situation, there was an unrelenting backlog of certification applications in our queue. At one point, there were over 3000 applications awaiting processing and still more accumulating. Using what I had learned in several leadership positions from assistant principal, principal, supervisor, executive assistant superintendent, and superintendent and with a focus on a quote from Ken Blanchard, "Servant leadership is all about making the goals clear and then rolling your sleeves up and doing whatever it takes to help people win. In that situation, they don't work for you; you work for them." We continued the work. Educators can submit a [question](#) via the [TeachLaLive! online certification portal](#).

Within five months, we are closing our applications submitted in the [TeachLaLive! online certification portal](#) within fifteen business days, and answering submitted [questions](#) within five business days. It is such an honor to get to take care of and work alongside the team each and every day.

Our Educator Certification and Background Credentialing Team has been presented with the LDOE Inaugural Core Values Challenge Coin. Challenge coins symbolize membership, belonging, and camaraderie. It is used to acknowledge an individual's achievements, dedication, or exemplary service. Receiving a challenge coin is a testament to one's significant impact on their peers and the organization as a whole.

Our focus continues to be on culture, communication, and data collection. We will continue to serve our Human Resources Directors, Preparation Providers, and educators with pride.

**Arthur Joffrion, Executive Director of Educator Certification and Credentialing**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Principal's Webinar Series**

The LDOE hosts a monthly webinar series for current school leaders and principal supervisors on best practices in school leadership aligned to the state's priorities. Each month, the webinar features national and Louisiana experts sharing strategies and tools on a specific topic necessary for being effective in the school leader role. January's webinar will feature information on EdLink 360 and how the data can be used to help you make staffing decisions.

**Webinar Date and Time:** January 29 at 1 p.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/97054177103?pwd=Vm9DYmZpNXhKSGQrVnJwSjVMb25aZz09>

**Webinar Phone Number:** 346-248-7799

**Meeting ID#:** 970 5417 7103

**Passcode:** 310386

Please contact [louisianaleaders@la.gov](mailto:louisianaleaders@la.gov) with questions.

### **Teacher Leader Summit: Leading the Next Level**

The 12th annual [Teacher Leader Summit](#) will be held May 28-30, in New Orleans at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. This year's Teacher Leader Summit will focus on "Leading the Next Level."

[Teacher Leader Summit](#) Early Bird [registration](#) opened January 5, with regular registration opening February 3. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration closes on March 15 or at sellout.

The LDOE is looking for talented teacher leaders to be the next Teacher Leader Summit presenters. The call for presentations is now open. Interested educators who want to share their knowledge, please complete an [application](#) by February 2.

Please contact [events@emergentmethod.com](mailto:events@emergentmethod.com) with questions.

### **NEW: LDOE Releasing Professional Learning Platform for All Educators**

The LDOE will be releasing a [Professional Learning Platform](#) this spring for all school system employees at no cost to the school system. This user-friendly, statewide platform will house all professional learning and the [Professional Learning Partner Guide](#) in this one platform; professional learning modules and webinars will no longer live on the LDOE website.

The [Professional Learning Platform Overview](#) includes additional information on

- creating EdLink credentials;
- requesting Canopy permissions;
- participating in Canopy Informational Webinars, and
- completing online training in the Professional Learning Platform.

School systems can continue providing their employees EdLink credentials and Canopy permissions. Training for school systems will begin in March.

Please contact [amanda.slaughter@la.gov](mailto:amanda.slaughter@la.gov) with questions.

## **PL Platform Webinar for School Leaders**

The LDOE will host an informational Professional Learning Platform webinar for school level leaders. Please see the details listed below.

**Webinar Date/Time:** March 6 at 10 a.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98262987709?pwd=aDlvTkI6NGlkSSStzSWM3b3dDaVdVQT09>

**Webinar Phone Number:** +1 470 381 2552

**Webinar Meeting ID:** 982 6298 7709

**Webinar Passcode:** 338876

Please contact [amanda.slaughter@la.gov](mailto:amanda.slaughter@la.gov) with questions.

## **2023-2024 Seal of Biliteracy Orders**

Since the approval of RS 17:273.4 in 2024, Louisiana students may earn the State Seal of Biliteracy by demonstrating literacy in English and another language. Please use the [Diploma and Seal Order Form](#) to submit an order for the 2023-2024 graduates. The order form is open and ready for orders to be placed. Along with the Diploma and Seal order form, school systems should submit the [Seals of Biliteracy Request Document](#).

All diploma and seal requests must be submitted through the electronic form. The deadline to submit orders is February 2, 2024. Only one form should be completed for each school system. The Department will cover the costs for the initial order and distribution request that are received by the due date.

High schools with at least 5% of their graduating class earning the Seal of Biliteracy will be celebrated at the June BESE meeting.

Please contact [language.aquisition@la.gov](mailto:language.aquisition@la.gov) with questions.

## **Annual Teacher Exit Survey Released**

The annual [Teacher Exit Survey](#) highlights the progress of Louisiana's comprehensive recruitment and retention strategy. This past year saw the following improvement:

- For the first time in four years, there was an increase in the total teacher workforce.
- The rate of exiting teachers decreased by one percentage point from 14 to 13 percent.
- The top three reasons for teachers exiting their current position remained the same: personal reasons, transferring to another Louisiana school system, and retirement.

The 2022-2023 [Teacher Exit Survey](#) is available in the [Workforce Attributes Library](#).

Please contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) with any questions.

## RESOURCES

### ACADEMICS

#### **Assessment Literacy Initiative**

The LDOE Assessment Content team and the Center for Assessment will host the February session of the monthly webinar series on February 1. The focus of this session is Interpreting and Using Interim and Benchmark Assessment Information: What Do Teachers and Leaders Need to Know and Do?

Each session in the [Effective Assessment Practices](#) series will provide opportunities for Louisiana educators – both leaders and classroom educators – to learn about and discuss the most important and practical topics related to assessment in school systems and classrooms. An optional question-and-answer session will take place immediately following the webinar. For your convenience, we will record the webinar.

**Webinar Date and Time:** February 1 at 3:30 p.m.

**Webinar Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87132144508>

**Webinar Phone Number:** 1 646 931 3860

**Webinar ID#:** 871 3214 4508

**Passcode:** 624654

Please contact [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov) with questions.

### MATH

#### **Math Refresh Regional Tour**

[Registration](#) is open for the final sessions of the Math Refresh Regional Tour. Join us in Lafayette on February 6 and in Lafourche Parish on February 7. System leaders, school leaders, and teachers are invited to attend. Topics for the Winter tour include

- Instructional Coherence;
- Diving Deeper into FLAME; and
- Planning for Act 260 Numeracy Professional Learning.

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

### SCIENCE

#### **Monthly Office Hours to Support Implementation of OpenSciEd High School Materials**

To further support learning acceleration in high school science, the LDOE is hosting monthly office hours to support teachers implementing the OpenSciEd High School materials. Office hours take place the second Wednesday of each month from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. and serve as an open forum for teachers to ask questions related to implementation. Participating biology, chemistry, and physics teachers may join monthly using the information below:

**Webinar Date and Time:** Second Wednesday of each month 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](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

## DIGITAL LEARNING

### **Microsoft for Education Resources**

The LDOE is thrilled to announce the release of three valuable [Microsoft for Education](#) resources on the [Digital Learning teacher web page](#).

- Microsoft Teams: Getting Started
- Microsoft Teams: Next Steps
- Using OneNote with Students and Faculty

The LDOE believes these tools will be invaluable in teachers' journey to create a more interactive and engaging learning environment for students.

Please contact [digitallearning@la.gov](mailto:digitallearning@la.gov) with questions.

### **Student Privacy Laws Support**

In our digital age, the protection of student information is paramount. The LDOE is excited to introduce a comprehensive resource designed to guide K-12 educators through the intricacies of student privacy laws. The [Student Privacy Laws for Staff](#) resource outlines the key aspects of FERPA, COPPA, CIPA, and other notable privacy laws, providing educators with essential information to navigate the digital landscape responsibly.

This resource is a toolkit for ensuring a safe and secure learning environment in our increasingly connected world. The LDOE encourages all educators to familiarize themselves with these guidelines and integrate them into their daily teaching practices.

Please contact [digitallearning@la.gov](mailto:digitallearning@la.gov) with questions.

## EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

### **K-5 Free Computer Science Teacher Training**

The LDOE has partnered with the Capital Area STEM (LASTEM Region 2) Center to offer the [Ignite Project](#), a FREE hybrid K-5 computer science teacher training. This training will be agnostic of a curriculum or specific computer science provider's program. The training will focus on the fundamentals of computational thinking, emphasize interactive project-based learning techniques, and introduce teachers to open-source resources from Code.org, Scratch Jr., Micro: bit, and robotics. For more information or to register visit the [Ignite Project's web page](#).

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

## **6-12 Free Virtual Computer Science Praxis Exam Teacher Training**

The LDOE has partnered with the Northshore Regional STEM (LASTEM Region 9) Center to offer the [Energize Project](#), a FREE virtual 6-12 computer science praxis exam teacher training. This training will be agnostic of a curriculum or specific computer science provider's program. The training will have four cohorts that start on March 19 and run through May 13. A fifth hybrid cohort will occur on Southeastern Louisiana University's campus in the first week of June. For more information or to register visit the [Energize Project's web page](#).

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

## **Computer Science K-12 Standards Writing Committee**

The December 2023 meeting of the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved the initiation of the first-ever Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science K-12 writing committee. The participation [application](#) is open to all interested Louisiana educators, school system staff, administrators, parents, students in grades 7-12, and community members. Applications are open and will close on Friday, February 5, at 4 p.m. CST. Selected participants will be notified in April.

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

## **2024-2025 Evaluation Learning Year Summer Training**

All schools will participate in the 2024-2025 Evaluation Learning Year. [Training](#) on the Louisiana Educator Rubric and the Louisiana Leader Rubric will take place this summer for designated observers, school leaders, and system leaders. [Registration](#) for the training will open on January 31.

Please contact [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov) with questions.

## **PRINCIPAL NEWSLETTER SIGNUP**

Do you have a colleague who would benefit from receiving this newsletter? Forward this copy and encourage them to [subscribe](#) to receive our next monthly newsletter.

## **PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION**

If you have an extraordinary building-level leader you would like to recommend to be highlighted in future newsletters; please submit information about the outstanding leader using the [LDOE Principal's Newsletter Leader Spotlight Nomination Form](#). This note of appreciation will be included in our next monthly newsletter.

### **Mollie Fontenot, Brame Middle School in Rapides Parish**

"When a forward-thinking person is innately geared toward success, learning, and people, you have a great leader. When that person is also fun-loving, you have the perfect middle school leader. Mollie Fontenot is, indeed, all of those things." *submitted by Stacy Castaneda*

**DATES TO CONSIDER FOR BUILDING-LEVEL LEADERS**

<b>Important Dates</b>	
<a href="#">Monthly Principal webinar</a>	January 29 at 1 p.m.
<a href="#">Assessment Literacy Initiative webinar</a>	February 1 at 3:30 p.m.
<a href="#">Computer Science Standards Writing Committee applications due</a>	February 5