

# LOUISIANA PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

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

May 25, 2023

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## PRINCIPAL CORNER

Congratulations to the 2023-2024 cohort of the Aspiring Principal Fellowship. These fellows will spend the school year engaged in professional learning in order to gain the critical skills needed to serve students, families, and educators as a principal.

2024 ASPIRING PRINCIPAL FELLOWS			
Acadia Parish	Allen Lee III	Ouachita Parish	Allison Keyes
Acadia Parish	Andre Deshotel	Ouachita Parish	Anna Redding
Acadia Parish	April Trahan	Ouachita Parish	Dale Zimmerman
Acadia Parish	Jenna Latiolais	Ouachita Parish	Kimberly Cormier
Acadia Parish	Laura Arcement	Ouachita Parish	Robin Wilhite
Acadia Parish	Leigha Briolo	Plaquemines Parish	Amy Bourgeois
Bossier Parish	Jason Ogunyemi	Plaquemines Parish	Cynthia Wooton
Calcasieu Parish	April Gonzales	Plaquemines Parish	Jamila Hopkins
Calcasieu Parish	Charlotte Campbell	Plaquemines Parish	Joshua Euper
Calcasieu Parish	Rebecca Breaux	Plaquemines Parish	Keokuk Chisholm

Calcasieu Parish	<b>Rebecca Sanders</b>
East Feliciana Parish	<b>Mia Taylor</b>
Franklin Parish	<b>Indya Pruitt</b>
Franklin Parish	<b>Logan DuGard</b>
Iberia Parish	<b>Ashley Johnson-Green</b>
Iberia Parish	<b>Emily Dupre</b>
Iberia Parish	<b>Mindy Buteaux</b>
Iberville Parish	<b>Monica Holden-Irving</b>
Jefferson Davis Parish	<b>Rhoda Corkran</b>
Jefferson Davis Parish	<b>Stacey Dickens</b>
Jefferson Davis Parish	<b>Tisha Whittington</b>
Jefferson Parish	<b>Gladys Mouton</b>
Lafayette Charter Foundation	<b>Kenya Chevis</b>
Lafayette Parish	<b>Brittany Williams</b>
Morehouse Parish	<b>Lashonda Jones</b>
Orleans Parish	<b>Alexander Merkley</b>

Plaquemines Parish	<b>Melissa Rhodes</b>
Plaquemines Parish	<b>Tonya Redmond</b>
Pointe Coupee Parish	<b>Dawn Albert</b>
Pointe Coupee Parish	<b>Tanya Burgess</b>
Rapides Parish	<b>Bobi Sue Delaney</b>
Rapides Parish	<b>Stacey Gaskins</b>
Rapides Parish	<b>Alysia Tolbert</b>
Southwest Louisiana Charter	<b>Batrina Clark</b>
St. Charles Parish	<b>Krystn Charlie</b>
St. John the Baptist Parish	<b>Michelle Seymour</b>
West Carroll Parish	<b>Courtney Bolding</b>
West Carroll Parish	<b>Stephanie Johnson</b>
The Willow School	<b>Alexandria Cluen-Brown</b>
West Carroll Parish	<b>Stephanie Johnson</b>
Zachary Community Schools	<b>Beverly Hill</b>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Math Refresh Summer Webinar Series**

The Department's math team will host a summer webinar series for current principals on the [Louisiana Math Refresh](#). Each webinar will focus on a specific topic designed to help school leaders impact math instruction. Session descriptions and registration information can be found in the [Math Refresh Summer Webinar Series flyer](#). Math teachers, coaches, content supervisors, and administrators should register using school or system email addresses. Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

## **Elevate Teacher Engagement through Upbeat**

As a part of the statewide recruitment and retention strategy, in an effort to support school systems with elevating school climate and culture, the Department is partnering with Upbeat, a company that specializes in the engagement and retention of teachers and staff by providing a unique research-based employee survey and coaching services. This opportunity is available for **125 schools** who would like to participate in Upbeat's survey and coaching services for the 2023-2024 school year **at no cost** to the school/system. Interested school/system leaders may find additional information about this opportunity on [Upbeat's landing page](#) for Louisiana.

**School/System Leaders** are asked to complete the [interest form](#) by **June 23**. To ensure a variety of representation from across the state, the Department will review inquiries from interested stakeholders to ensure representation and notify the schools that are selected for this program in **mid-July**. Please contact [louisianaleaders@la.gov](mailto:louisianaleaders@la.gov) with questions.

## **New Teacher Experience: Summer Kick Off**

The Louisiana Department of Education will host a Summer Kick-off for the New Teacher Experience on **July 26** from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in Baton Rouge, LA for 500 first year teachers. The goals of the event are to:

- Welcome new teachers to the profession.
- Understand the components of Louisiana's New Teacher Experience.
- Engage in professional learning around topics relevant to new teachers.
- Provide statewide networking opportunities for new teachers .

[Registration](#) for this event will be first come, first served. The registration is now open and will close **July 6** or once capacity is reached, whichever comes first.

School systems may register their new teachers or directly send the [registration link](#) to new teachers for them to self register. School systems should share details about the event with their new teachers and ensure that they are able to attend prior to registering. This event is provided at no cost to systems; however, any travel costs should be covered by the school system. Registration includes lunch and a tote bag with lots of start-of-the-year goodies. Please contact [laurie.carlton@la.gov](mailto:laurie.carlton@la.gov) with questions.

## **Registration for School Support Institutes 2023 - 2024 Now Open**

[Registration for School Support Institutes 2023 - 2024](#) is open until **June 8**. In collaboration with our high-quality professional learning partner, TNTP, School Support Institutes 2023 – 2024 will focus on cultivating coherence and supporting Louisiana leaders to establish and maintain well-organized instructional programs that meet the diverse needs of all students .

Principals from CIR schools are required to register three members of their ILT for School Support Institutes 2023 - 2024. Leadership teams from UIR-A and unlabeled schools are also invited to register and attend. Please see our [SSI 2023 - 2024 Overview and Registration document](#) for more information and the registration link.

Please contact [schoolimprovementdivision@la.gov](mailto:schoolimprovementdivision@la.gov) with questions about SSI. For technical assistance with registration, please contact [ldoessisupportteam@tntp.org](mailto:ldoessisupportteam@tntp.org).

## **Teacher Leader Lagniappe: New Episode Released**

LDOE's podcast, [Teacher Leader Lagniappe](#) provides a *little something extra* for educators to stay inspired, motivated, and connected in the work with students.

Check out the latest episode: **Season 2, Episode 13: Creating a Culture of Success: Insights from Lafayette's Comeback School Principals.**

Learn from five inspiring educational leaders from Lafayette Parish School System who share their experiences and insights that led them to receive the Louisiana Comeback Campus distinction. Jody Slaughter-Duhon, Bridget Malveaux, Catherine Bricelj, Allison Champagne and Tia Trahan share the unique approaches they take to create a positive and engaging learning environment for their staff and students. Richland Parish makes Em Cooper smile this week with their celebration of teachers for literacy improvements.

Educators can [submit pictures and stories](#) of the great work happening in their system to be highlighted on the podcast. Subscribe through [Apple](#) Podcasts, Google Play, [Spotify](#), or other apps. Please contact [em.cooper@la.gov](mailto:em.cooper@la.gov) with questions.

## **Recruitment and Retention using EdLink 360 at the 2023 Teacher Leader Summit**

The new iteration of the EdLink 360 Workforce Dashboard will be released at the 2023 Teacher Leader Summit. This session will focus on how systems and schools can use real-time data to make informed recruitment and retention decisions using the EdLink 360 Workforce Dashboard. Participants should bring their EdLink credentials and a laptop. Participants who do not have access to EdLink 360 should contact their systems' data managers prior to the conference. Please contact [donna.baudoin@la.gov](mailto:donna.baudoin@la.gov) with questions.

## **CIS Evaluation Closeout**

School principals may begin finalizing teacher, counselor, and librarian evaluations. Systems are encouraged to complete and sign off on all observation and Student Learning Target (SLT) data prior to staff leaving for summer break. **Once the Compass Information System (CIS) rolls to the 2023-2024 school year in the fall, no teacher, counselor, or librarian evaluation data for the 2022-2023 school year can be added or amended.** To create a streamlined process, it is recommended that educators complete the following assigned tasks:

- Ensure that all teachers, counselors, and librarians are in [CIS](#)
- [Enter](#) professional practice/observation scores in CIS (For 2022-2023 only, if the evaluated person scored "Effective: Proficient" or "Highly Effective" (2.5 and above), enter the single score twice)
- [Accept](#) SLTs in CIS
- [Rate](#) SLTs in CIS
- Submit all non-VAM teacher, counselor, and librarian evaluations in CIS
- Meet with teachers, counselors, and librarians prior to leaving for summer break (obtain signatures acknowledging scores)
- Verify VAM rosters in [CVR](#) by May 26

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

## RESOURCES

### **New: Family Summer Support Toolkit**

The [Family Summer Support Toolkit](#) provides handouts for parents and sample social media posts for school systems to use in engaging families during the summer in math and literacy. The posts will include links to activities to send home and are designed to encourage families to continue learning throughout the summer in a fun and engaging way. The toolkit also highlights digital resources for families of students with disabilities and English Learners. Please contact [literacy@la.gov](mailto:literacy@la.gov) with questions.

### **ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Updates**

This fall, the Department will release three new level three units for ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) on the [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#). The new units that will be available are the following: Voices in America (Grade 3), Olympics (Grade 4), and Renaissance Art (Grade 5). Educators should review the updated [ELA Guidebooks 3-5 \(2022\) Overview](#) which includes information regarding unit overviews, embedded assessments, and text lists. Please contact [elaguidebooks@la.gov](mailto:elaguidebooks@la.gov) with questions.

### **ELA Guidebooks Text Updates**

The Department made minor updates to two ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) units for Grade 3, The Stories Julian Tells and Cajun Folktales. The Stories Julian Tells unit has a new edition of the anchor text, *The Stories Julian Tells* by Ann Cameron (©2023), and the updated version of the text is now available in the [American Reading Company](#) portal. This text change affects section 3, lessons 1 and 2, and the teaching guide will be updated to align with each version of the text. In addition, “Animal Traits and Features” has replaced the text in section 7 of the Cajun Folktales unit, “Animal Facts.”

Additionally, due to shifts in text permissions, some texts in additional ELA Guidebooks units will no longer be accessible in the [XanEdu](#) Unit Readers. Educators should review the [ELA Guidebooks Licensing Updates](#) document for an overview of the affected units and updates to text access for each impacted unit. As the Department works with XanEdu to secure access to each text, the document will be updated with additional details. Please contact [elaguidebooks@la.gov](mailto:elaguidebooks@la.gov) with questions.

### **Resources for School Librarians**

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 [Twitter](#).

Upcoming Events:

- Louisiana Library Association (LLA) Conference: July 6-8, Hilton Capital Center
  - Please contact [GeauxLASL@gmail.com](mailto:GeauxLASL@gmail.com) for more information
- [American Association of School Librarians \(AASL\) Conference](#): October 19-21, Tampa, Florida

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

## **Social Studies Course Frameworks Additional Units Added**

The Department is developing Social Studies Course Frameworks aligned to the [2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies \(LSSSS\)](#) for Kindergarten through Grade 8, high school Civics, and high school U.S. History. These resources are designed to support teachers in implementing the 2022 LSSSS by scoping and sequencing content standards over the course of the year.

Additional completed units have been added and can be accessed on the [K-12 Social Studies Resources page](#). All remaining units will post prior to the upcoming Teacher Leader Summit. Please contact [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov) with questions.

## **Last Chance: Professional Learning to Support Implementation of Free Zearn Access!**

As part of the [Louisiana Math Refresh](#), the Department is partnering with [Zearn](#) to provide school accounts to all public schools serving K-8 students. Registration is open for additional sessions to support teachers and leaders in successful implementation. Session details are posted in the flyers linked below. Sessions are available in June and July in both virtual and in-person formats.

- Teachers should register for [Launching Zearn Math](#).
- Leaders should register for [Accelerating Impact with Zearn](#).

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

## **Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum**

The Department is developing Bayou Bridges, a new Louisiana K-8 social studies curriculum, to align with the student expectations of the [2022 K-8 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#) and to meet criteria similar to the quality indicators of the [instructional materials review rubric](#). Curriculum materials will include

- unit plans and daily lessons,
- student and teacher-facing materials,
- engaging primary sources, and
- formative and summative assessments.

Bayou Bridges will be available for piloting in grades 4-5 next school year. The complete curriculum for grades K-8 will be available for implementation by June 30, 2024. Please see the [Bayou Bridges FAQ document](#) for more details about curriculum development and release dates. Please contact [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov) with questions.

## **New Resources: Louisiana Student Standards for Science Crosswalk Documents**

To support systems, schools, and teachers in implementing the [Louisiana Student Standards for Science](#), the Department has released a series of crosswalk documents. The crosswalk documents provide guidance to assist with determining alignment to Louisiana Student Standards for Science for resources designed for the Next Generation Science Standards. Crosswalks for [Kindergarten](#) and [Grade 1](#) and have now been added to the suite of documents for grades K-8, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, and Physics. All crosswalk documents can be found on the [K-12 Science Resources webpage](#). Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

## **Adobe Express for Education**

[Adobe Express for Education](#) is a powerful, user-friendly tool that supports users in creating graphics, collages, and videos in just a few clicks. Adobe Express can assist in creating engaging and visually appealing materials that will capture students' attention and inspire them to learn. Adobe Express is free for all educators and students.

In addition, Adobe Express integrates with LMS and EdTech tools, making sign in and managing the app easy and convenient. Create, assign, and grade student projects directly from Google Classroom and Canvas.

Using Adobe Express in the classroom can help teachers create materials that are engaging and effective, while saving time and effort. With its intuitive interface and powerful tools, Adobe Express is accessible to educators with any level of design experience. Please contact [digitallearning@la.gov](mailto:digitallearning@la.gov) with questions.

## **Microsoft for Education Updates**

[Microsoft for Education](#) has released multiple updates to make teaching and learning even more efficient, collaborative, and engaging.

- Teams Templates: create templates for individual assignments, entire courses, or even school-wide initiatives
- Presenter Mode for PowerPoint Live: present your slides in a more engaging way, with the ability to add video feeds, audio, and virtual laser pointers to highlight key points
- [Microsoft Whiteboard](#): collaborate with students in real-time to brainstorm ideas, draw diagrams, or work through complex problems together
- [Flipgrid Shorts](#): create short videos that can be used for students to share their knowledge with the class
- [Immersive Reader](#): assists diverse learners by providing features such as text-to-speech, visual aids, and translations into other languages

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

## **EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES**

### **BESE Tuition Program for Teachers-Applications for Fall 2023 closing soon!**

The [BESE Tuition Program for Teachers](#) provides tuition funding for selected classroom teachers to enroll in courses at regionally accredited colleges or universities in Louisiana. Online applications for coursework funding for the fall 2023 semester are open now through **June 2**. Program details, as well as a link to the application, can be found on the [Continuing Opportunities for Educators page](#).

For questions about the BESE Tuition Program for Teachers, visit the [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) or contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov).

### **Save the Date: 2023 LATM/LSTA Joint Conference**

The Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics (LATM) and the Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA) Joint Conference will be held on November 2-3 at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge. Registration details will be shared on the [LSTA website](#) and in future newsletters. Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

## **Mentor Teachers: How Can I Become One?**

Are you interested in supporting the next generation of teachers? Giving back to others? Making sure our newest educators are growing and learning every day? Mentoring might be the right fit for you.

In April 2021, BESE approved changes to Bulletin 746 regarding mentor credential requirements. These updates include honoring previous training and experience including

- EDL or previous administrative certifications
- NIET trained evaluators
- CLASS trained evaluators
- Supervision of Student Teachers

Teachers may already qualify for the Mentor credential. Teachers who meet one of the previous training experiences listed above can apply through the [certification portal](#) for the Mentor [credential](#).

Teachers selected to serve as Mentors to residents (undergraduate and post-baccalaureate) receive \$2,000 for their work. Please contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) with questions.

## **PRINCIPAL NEWSLETTER SIGNUP**

Do you have a colleague who would benefit from receiving this newsletter? Forward this copy along with [this link](#) and they will receive our next monthly newsletter.

## **PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION**

Take a minute to send a shout-out of appreciation to a colleague who is a building-level leader using this [survey link](#). This note of appreciation will be included in our next monthly newsletter.

### **Karen Anthony, Madison Preparatory Academy in CSAL, Inc.**

"Ms. Anthony is an assistant principal jumps in and leads in the absence of the principal. She is respected by our students and her colleagues because of the way she carries herself on our campus. She is indeed a leader in every sense of the word." *submitted by Alisa Welsh*

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

<b>Important Dates</b>	
<a href="#">Teacher Leader Summit 2023</a>	May 30 - June 1
<a href="#">BESE Tuition Program for Teachers Applications Due</a>	June 2
<a href="#">Registration for School Support Institutes 2023 -2024 Due</a>	June 8
<a href="#">New Teacher Experience Summer Kick Off Registration Ends</a>	July 6
<a href="#">Louisiana Library Association (LLA) Conference</a>	July 6 - 8