

LOUISIANA PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

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

June 24, 2021

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Principal Corner



Summer Learning Programs - Distributive Leadership Creates Successful and FUN Programs led by Inspiring Leaders.

Like many school districts throughout Louisiana, Redesign Schools Louisiana (RSL) recognized the need for students to accelerate learning in response to identified instructional gaps presented within cumulative student data. Ms. Cristal Allen-Dumas was recognized as a budding leader at Glen Oaks Middle School, a Redesign School. As a part of the RSL pipeline to leadership, teachers who are excelling in the classroom are presented with leadership opportunities to stretch their professional experiences. Fortunately for RSL, Ms. Allen-Dumas accepted the offer to be the summer program principal and hit the ground running.

Under the guidance of Dr. Megan McNamara (Associate Superintendent, Academic and Culture), Ms. Allen-Dumas designed a well-rounded summer program using the Department's [Summer Learning Program Guidance](#). Putting together a summer program that includes a range of students from kindergarten through 8th grade takes a lot of organization and teacher talent. Ms. Allen-Dumas successfully launched the summer program June 1, 2021, where students started out their day with a school assembly and homeroom team building activities. If you walked the halls, you would see students engaged in ELA Guidebook units like *The Birchbark House*, working hard on Zearn to reach new developmental levels; fine-tuning their singing skills; participating in physical activities to build mind, body, and spirit; or even dissecting a grape. Two days a week, you would see Southern University's Agricultural program providing nutritional curriculum and resources to students to promote positive health.

There are a lot of moving pieces and Ms. Allen-Dumas's presence throughout the instructional day helps to keep curriculum and activities aligned and on track. As a principal, you have to be a strong communicator and Ms. Allen-Dumas has demonstrated her ability to problem solve in the moment and communicate what tweaks are needed to keep the program flowing. Ms. Allen-Dumas has flourished as a leader and we look forward to seeing the impact of her leadership on student data at the end of the summer.

Take a look at some Redesign Louisiana Summer Learning Program Superstars!



Here is a glimpse into other exciting Summer Learning Programs in Louisiana

In Claiborne Parish, campers have a blast while learning!



In Bossier, campers love to work on Zearn problem sets.



Students at Houghton Elementary (Bossier Parish) read about being in a fishbowl during enrichment time. Then, they created a drawing of a fishbowl and a model using playdough.



Kindergarten campers at Port Barre Elementary in St. Landry Parish were truly enjoying their day listening to a pirate story then going on a treasure hunt for gold coins that contained a word! Campers then worked in teams to sort the coins by initial sound.



More St. Landry students were engaged in online learning games and were super excited about it because they had to answer all the questions correctly!



Announcements and Resources

Evaluation Uploads

All evaluation scores, inclusive of two Student Learning Targets and Observation scores, must be uploaded into CIS (Compass Information System) no later than August 27, 2021. For 2020-2021 only, if the evaluated person scored Effective: Proficient or Highly Effective (2.5 and above), enter the single score twice, so it averages correctly. More information about evaluation uploads in CIS can be located in the [Compass Library](#).

Please contact compass@la.gov with questions.

School Improvement Best Practices

The LDOE partnered with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) this spring to develop the five best practices below for school improvement, and training on each has begun this summer. These [trainings](#) are available for all schools, and school leaders should connect with their district supervisor about registration.

- Instructional Leadership Teams
- Teacher Collaboration
- Teaching and Learning Standards
- Principal Standards
- Career Pipeline

Please contact em.cooper@la.gov with questions.

Accelerate

[Accelerate](#), Louisiana's pre-K-12 tutoring strategy, launched February 1 and is designed for school systems to implement equal-access tutoring at scale in order to achieve significant results for all students. School system and school leaders should be planning implementation of Accelerate in their schools for the upcoming school year. Resources and trainings are available in the [Accelerate Library](#).

Please contact em.cooper@la.gov with questions.

Release of Supporting Early Learning and Literacy (SELL) Guide

The Department released the [Supporting Early Learning and Literacy](#) (SELL) vendor guide to provide schools and systems with available tools and trainings that are scientifically based on the foundations of reading. In order to implement the Early Literacy Commission recommendations, school systems and centers need to invest in early learning and literacy resources. This guide provides networks with a list of partners that can deliver professional development to develop the capacity of educators to effectively identify and support the early learning and literacy needs of children. School systems can access this guide in the [School System Support Toolbox](#) under Instructional Resources.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Staffing and Scheduling Initiative

The Staffing and Scheduling initiative launched this March provides system and school leaders robust [guidance](#) and implementation support on developing strong staffing and scheduling models aligned to the best practices below. School schedules should look different this coming school year in order to address unfinished learning.

1. High-quality core instruction is the foundation.
2. Effective literacy instruction is central to student success.
3. Students with unfinished learning and diverse learners need extra instructional time to catch up.
4. Both core instruction and acceleration must be provided by content strong staff
5. Meeting the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of students supports academic achievement.
6. Equity should be at the forefront of all these strategies.

This guidance provides systems and school leaders:

- best practices,
- staffing and scheduling models,
- cautions and tips for implementation,
- and information on ongoing implementation support available.

The implementation supports are available this spring, summer, and fall.

- **Best Practice Webinars**
 - Practical tips for implementing LDOE's best practice guidance.
- **Virtual Job Alike Sharing Sessions**
 - *District Academic Leadership*
 - *School Leadership*
 - *Diverse Learners Leadership*
 - *Counselors and Counselor Leadership*
- **Targeted Question & Answer Sessions**
 - Virtual Q&A sessions to go deep into best practices related to effectively addressing unfinished student learning.

There is also additional support available to systems for \$2500 which has been subsidized by LDOE.

- **Regional Technical Support Series**
 - Three regional technical support sessions for LEAs to receive in-depth training and guidance on best practices from DMGroup experts.
- **“Phone a Friend” Coaching Support**
 - Individualized “just-in-time” coaching sessions for LEAs with DMGroup experts to discuss LEA-specific questions and challenges.

Materials from the spring implementation supports are available in the [School System Support Library](#). Resources and trainings are available in the [Accelerate Library](#).

Please contact em.cooper@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Literacy Initiative

Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE), in partnership with The Center for Assessment, will launch the Assessment Literacy Initiative. The goal of the initiative is to cultivate assessment literacy among Louisiana educators in order to improve student learning. This will be accomplished through a series of learning modules developed with educators from across Louisiana. In the 2021-2022 school year, the LDOE will be partnering with up to 20 teams of educators from school systems across the state. Each team will include one school system leader, one school leader, and two teachers — math and science. (In the second year of the initiative, the focus will be on ELA and social studies.)

The school-system teams will participate in a series of virtual meetings that will take place during school hours. The series will consist of a kickoff meeting and five, three-hour professional learning sessions. Participants must engage in every session, complete practice activities to share and apply new learning using the professional learning structure, provide feedback on each session to inform their ongoing development and improvement, and agree to share their learning with others in the following year (2022-2023). School systems will receive substitute stipends for qualifying educators that participate in the sessions.

To apply, school leaders should complete the [interest survey](#) by June 30.

Please contact alissa.kilpatrick@la.gov with questions.

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.

Shout Outs:

Kandice Broussard from Milton Elementary Middle School in Lafayette Parish Parish: “There are not enough words to adequately convey my appreciation for being able to work alongside such a compassionate and hard-working leader. Kandice’s love for our community is inspiring to all who are blessed to be in her presence.” *Nominated by Jessica Guidry*

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.

Dates to Consider for Building-Level Leaders

Office Hours	
Office Hours Title	Zoom Link
Data Coordinator Office Hours	July 1 at 1 p.m.
Career and College Readiness Office Hours	July 1 at 3 p.m.
Early Childhood Lead Agencies Office Hours	July 6 at 3 p.m.
CLSD CIR/UIR-A TA Office Hours	July 7 at 11 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Office Hours	July 20 at 3:45 p.m.
Monthly Calls*	
Monthly Call Title	Zoom Link
Literacy Monthly Call	July 1 at 10 a.m.
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	July 13 at 3:45 p.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Call	July 15 at 1 p.m.
Student Well-Being Monthly Call	July 21 at 3:30 p.m.
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	August 19 at 3 p.m.
Academic Content and Educator Development Monthly Call	August 25 at 1 p.m.
*Monthly call presentations are available in the School Improvement Library . View the School System Support Calendar to access a complete schedule of events.	
Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
Scheduling Q&A Session	June 30 at 1 p.m.
Literacy PD Session 2 - Understanding the Importance of Leadership Around Implementation	July 1 at 9 a.m.

Forming a Behavioral Threat Assessment Team	July 7 at 9 a.m.
Important Deadlines	
Assessment Literacy Initiative Interest Survey	June 30
Math Acceleration Community of Practice Application	June 30
Social Studies Assessment Advisory Committee Interest Survey	July 9